VOLUME ONE • NUMBER THREE

MEN TOGETHER

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THE MAGAZINE OF SEXUAL AWARENESS FOR THE GAY MALE

EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL FOR ADULTS ONLY • SALE TO MINORS PROHIBITED

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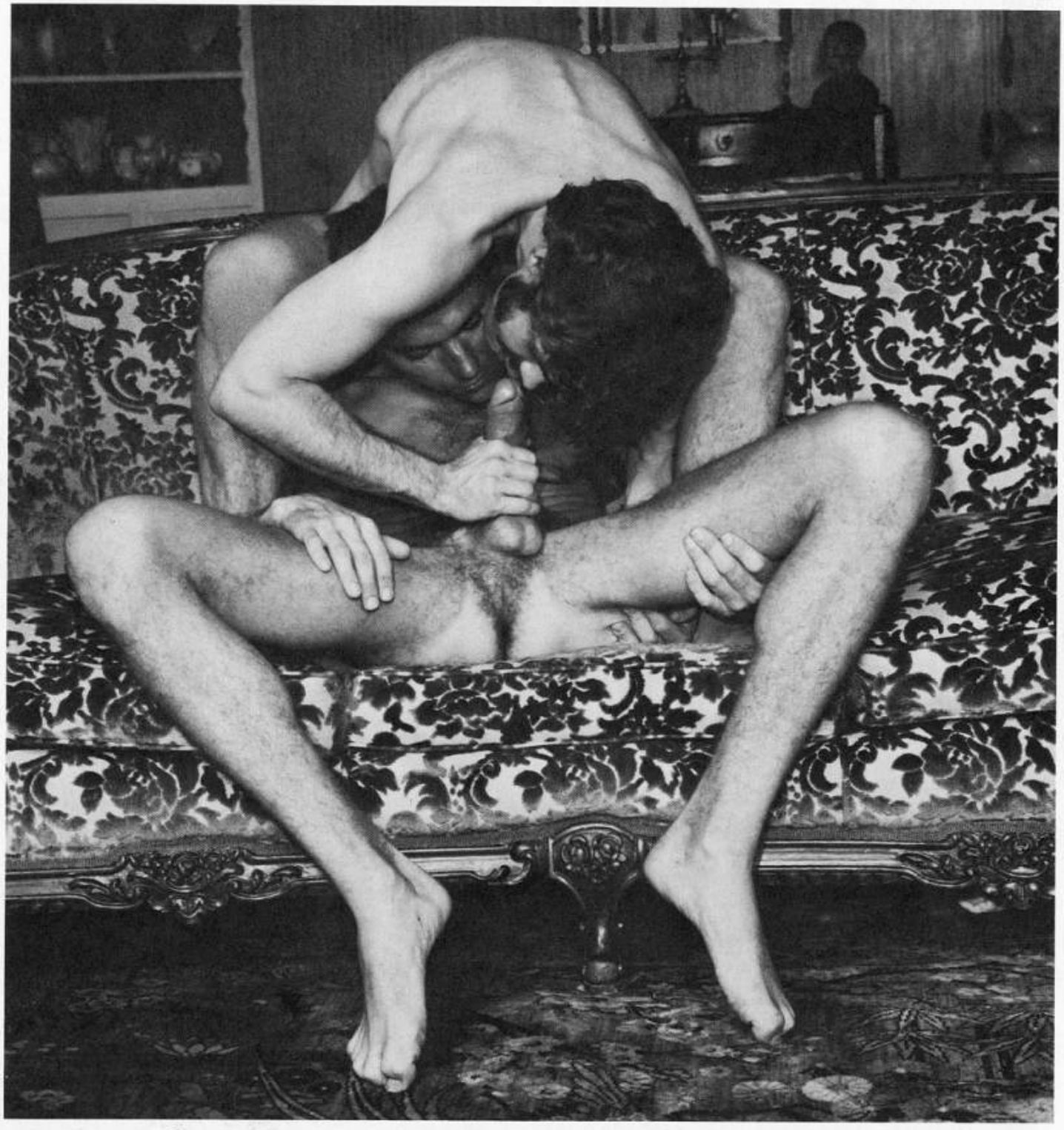

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EDITORIAL

The truth, it is often said, bears repeating. And the truth about homosexuality is that it is here to stay; that it is a viable lifestyle for millions of Americans; that to be homosexual is in no way sick, perverse, or shameful.

Gays and the gay cause have made heady progress in just the past decade. Hardly a week goes by without the subject of homosexuality being mentioned—often featured—on prime-time television, and it is increasingly handled in a positive, matter-of-fact manner totally inconceivable as little as ten years ago. Television is, today, educating heterosexuals to accept the facts of gay existence just as, several years ago, it educated whites to accept the facts of black existence. With gays as with blacks, slowly—ever so slowly—intolerance is being replaced with understanding.

Education is a chain-reaction process. To be curious is to learn; to learn is to know; to know is to understand; to understand is to free the mind from fear; and freedom from fear is freedom to grow and develop as a worthy human being. It's not an easy process, nor a rapid one, but it *does* work.

But the battle for education isn't being waged on only one front. Gays, too, need to know about themselves almost as much as straights need to know about gays. In the area of sexuality—in understanding the motivations of one's actions and how best to deal with them—gays have traditionally been at a great disadvantage. While sound, well-researched information abounds on *heterosexual* sexuality, very little material is available addressed specifically to the problems and needs of gays. What little information is available is not readily accessible to many of the very people who need it most.

It is to the dissemination of such information that QUEST is dedicated. This issue re-examines some of the most basic questions straights have about gays—and gays have about themselves.

To some, undoubtedly, many of these questions may seem simplistic. But keep in mind that our purpose is to touch as many of the basics as is possible in a limited space—not only in an effort to educate straights who would know gays better, but also for gays who would know more about themselves.

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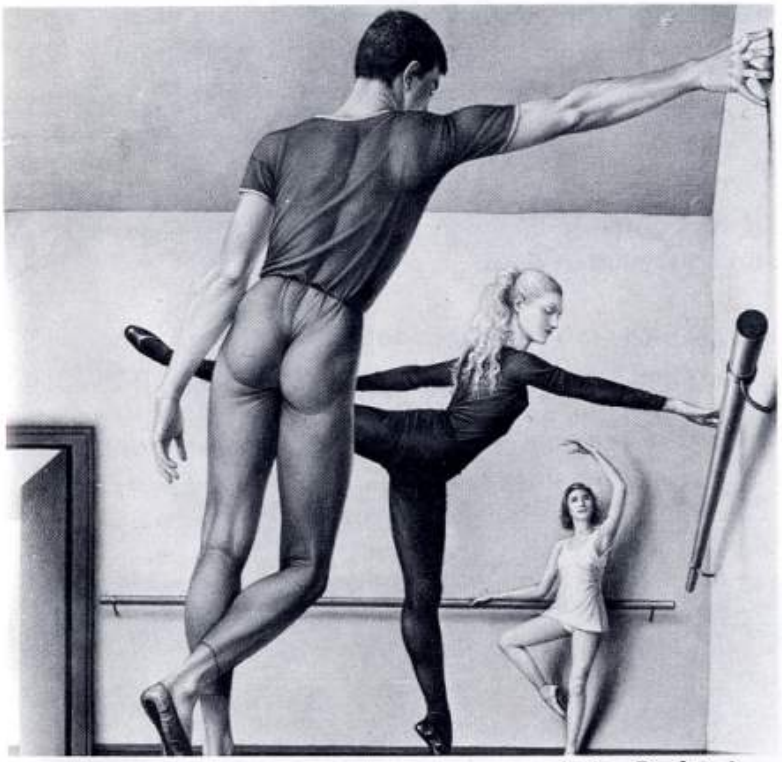
Artist: Paul Cadmus

Straights do not need to know the *specifics* of gay sex—but should recognize that two men can share erotic love.

A WORD FOR STRAIGHTS

Many straights have a deep curiosity about gays, though they may be less than tactful about it. Here are a few of the more common questions one is bound to be asked as a "representative gay," and some ready-made answers.



Artist: Paul Cadmus

Why do homosexuals call themselves "gay"—isn't that a little ironic?

Yes, it is—and not coincidentally. As human beings first and homosexuals second, gays have developed a fine sense of irony as a defense against a hostile world. The word "gay," therefore, is the homosexual's way of telling the world to "bug off."

What makes a person "gay?"

There are so many factors which may contribute to homosexuality that scientists are not sure themselves which are actually contributory and which are not. One factor which seems to be significant is that many gays share a certain pattern in their upbringing—a weak, passive, and/or absent father, and/or a strong, dominating (often subtly so) mother. Behaviorists feel that if a young, impressionable boy overidentifies with his mother rather than developing a normal balance between mother and father, the pattern is pretty well set.

What's the dividing line between a homosexual and a bisexual?

Any male who confines his sexual contacts and activities exclusively to members of his own sex would be considered a true homosexual. It is well known that most men have, at some time in their lives, engaged in homosexual practices. This is, moralists to the contrary, quite normal. Isolated incidents of social masturbation, fellatio, or even anal intercourse do not make an individual a homosexual.

Only when all sexual contact with females is either totally discontinued or never begun can the individual be accurately described as a true homosexual. When heterosexual activities are intermixed with homosexual acts, the individual should be described as a bisexual.

Is this the legal definition of homosexuality?

Unfortunately, so far as the law is concerned, any male who performs a sexual act with another male is guilty (if the laws of his state so provide) of an illegal, "homosexual" act—even if this may be the man's first and only gay encounter.

Even in the public mind, anyone who performs homosexual acts with any degree of frequency is a homosexual, even if his primary sexual interests are heterosexual. Laymen tend to make definitive judgments and apply generalizations without regard to the effect those definitions and generalizations may have on an individual.

For the purposes of QUEST, a man is gay if his sexual preferences are exclusively or primarily homosexual.

Is it possible, then, for a man leading a normal sex life to also regularly perform homosexual acts?

It is innocent-appearing words like "normal" that have caused undue confusion and misery in the world. The situation of a heterosexual man with a wife and family engaging in frequent homosexual contacts is not nearly as rare as most straights would like to imagine. A "normal" sex life is, in the final analysis, different for every individual.

Is homosexuality universal?

Yes, homosexuality is not limited in any way by race, geography, intelligence, economic position, education, or any other specific factor one could name. There does seem to be some slight correlation between the level of socioeconomic development of a culture and the incidence of homosexuality within it, but there are no statistics available.

Can you really spot a homo every time?

Gays can recognize each other far more easily than straights can recognize gays, for a myriad of subtle reasons. Usually the gays that straights identify are the extreme fems who could hardly be missed by anyone. But this tired old cliche of being able to "spot one every time" is dying a merciful death as more and more straights realize that truckdrivers, baseball players, boxers, soldiers, sailors, marines, and co-workers can just as easily be gay as not —and often are.

If recognition is so difficult, just how do gays recognize each other?

There is no sure-fire codebook for identifying gays, but there are many clues gays use—and pick up on—of which straights are largely unaware. Eye contact is a key factor, as are tone of voice, phrasing, and "in" expressions. Gays communicate a lot more through their sense of

Even today, many straights are truly shocked by the thought that warmth, affection, and love can exist between two men.

Unless they're actually seen having sex with another man, most gays can't be "spotted" by the average heterosexual.

humor than most people—gay or straight—generally realize.

Is it safe to assume that a male who wears feminine clothes is a homosexual?

Surprisingly, no. There are countless instances of heterosexual males who, for reasons of their own, feel a need to dress in woman's clothes. Most simply enjoy the physical sensations of feminine undergarments, and will wear them under their regular street clothes. It has been estimated that fully 35 percent of all transvestites are strictly straight in bed.

Aren't most homosexuals child molesters?

This is one of the oldest, and least accurate, charges leveled against gays by straight society. Actually, 95 percent of all child molesters are heterosexual, and the average gay has as little sexual interest in children than does the average straight man.

Can homosexuality be cured?

One might as well ask "Can brown eyes be cured?" To speak of a "cure" for homosexuality is to make the automatic assumption that being gay is some sort of illness—a fact psychiatrists increasingly tend to refute. Progressive psychologists and psychiatrists look upon homosexuality as merely an alternate lifestyle to heterosexuality.

Well, then, can somebody who is gay turn straight?

This would, of course, depend largely on whether or not the gay in question **wanted** to turn straight. If the answer is "yes," then professional help may well enable him to alter his sexual patterns. But if the answer is "no," there is no reason why he should—and to insist that he do so merely for the sake of conformity is a terrifying and deeply moral wrong.

Isn't aversion therapy effective in the treatment of homosexuals?

For those who wish to go straight, aversion therapy can be quite effective—but it has frightening implications. Some straights favor aversion therapy (which involves various forms of punishment and reward, much as in Pavlov's famous experiments with dogs) for all gays. They might do well, however, to consider that, theoretically, at least, aversion therapy could just as effectively be used to turn a heterosexual gay.

What about hormone shots in treating homosexuality?

Again, "treating" and "treatment" assume a necessity for such action. While it was temporarily rather popular to believe that homosexuality was largely glandular and could therefore be "cured" by a change in hormone balance, an article in **Sexology** magazine puts that idea to rest with the observation that "a shot of male hormone won't make women any more appealing to a male homosexual, nor would a shot of female hormones make men any more attractive to a lesbian."

It has been estimated that between 20 and 25 percent of all American males have had at least some homosexual experience.

Are all homosexuals promiscuous?

Many are, of course. But, again, the important factor here is not whether one is gay or straight; gay males are males first and gay second—and, in our society, males are expected and encouraged to prove their manhood by being as promiscuous as possible. If gays are more promiscuous than straights, it is largely because they have more opportunity to be.

Once two gay males decide to establish a lasting relationship, however, they must determine for themselves whether they will continue to have affairs on the side or to be faithful to

one another. Infidelity, however, is the largest single cause of breakup in the vast majority of gay relationships.

Why do homosexuals make passes at straight men?

Few gays are guilty of this charge if they are aware that the party to whom the pass is made is straight. There are, however, some gays who take perverse pleasure in pursuing straight males. Their reasons are generally based in either a desire to be rejected or a strange sense of satisfaction if they are indeed able to get a straight into bed. Again, these gays are a very small percentage of the total community.

Why do homosexuals seem to be found mainly in larger cities?

Gays do tend to gravitate to the larger cities, mainly because the larger the city, the more likely that it will have a viable gay community within it. Furthermore, until only recently, life in

Though charges of gay promiscuity have some basis in fact, married gays often choose—and are able—to remain faithful.

small towns was virtually impossible for most gays—both because of heterosexual prejudices and of the gay's natural desires to be in a situation where he does not feel totally alone.

Why do homosexuals seem to be overly concerned with their looks?

It is one of the less positive facts of homosexuality that many gays are almost pathologically concerned with youth and good looks. The whole of the gay subculture seems at times to be youth-and-beauty oriented, partly because gay relationships, not sanctioned by law, tend to be less stable than straight marriages. Whereas, to straight men, at least, any necessity to retain one's youth or youthful attractiveness ceases after marriage, these factors are very important to gays seeking sexual partners.

Obviously, if all gays would conduct their sexual affairs in private, there'd be no risk of offending straights.

Are homosexuals really the victims of legal persecution?

Far too often, yes. Admitted homosexuals are unable to serve in the military, or to hold responsible jobs in government. In many other occupations, also, admitted homosexuality is grounds for dismissal. Only a fraction of the 50 United States tolerate homosexuality on legal grounds. The police of many cities harrass and intimidate gays periodically (by strange coincidence, usually in conjuction with elections).

Gays **can** win their legal rights, if they have the money to do so, which few do.

Isn't life a lot easier for homosexuals now?

Fortunately, yes. It is also easier for blacks, but that does not mean injustice has been eliminated for either group. There are literally millions of gay citizens in the United States, the vast majority of whom are responsible people—and most straights are finally beginning to recognize that fact. Much of the credit for the easing of tensions can be traced to the ready availability of honest, direct information which has tended to dispel the old myths and rumors.

Is the incidence of homosexuality growing?

Not if one is to believe the statistics revealed in a survey conducted by **Playboy** magazine on American sexual ethics in the 1970s. Questioning 2,026 people, **Playboy** found "homosexuality has not increased in incidence, although it most definitely has increased in visibility." Kinsey believed between 20 to 25 percent of all American males to have had some homosexual experience. As the population grows, the **number** of gays will continue to increase, but the overall percentages will probably remain the same. Hopefully, it will become increasingly accepted by the straight majority.

Are we faced with a future in which homosexuality is the norm?

That is not likely, since it would be a self-defeating process. In a largely homosexual society, population would constantly decrease (not a bad alternative to overpopulation, per-

haps), resulting in a lessening of some of those societal pressures which produce more homosexuals. In all probability, an optimum level will be reached at which the homosexual, though a common factor, will still be considerably in the minority.

Doesn't a greater acceptance of homosexuality present a danger the world will become gay?

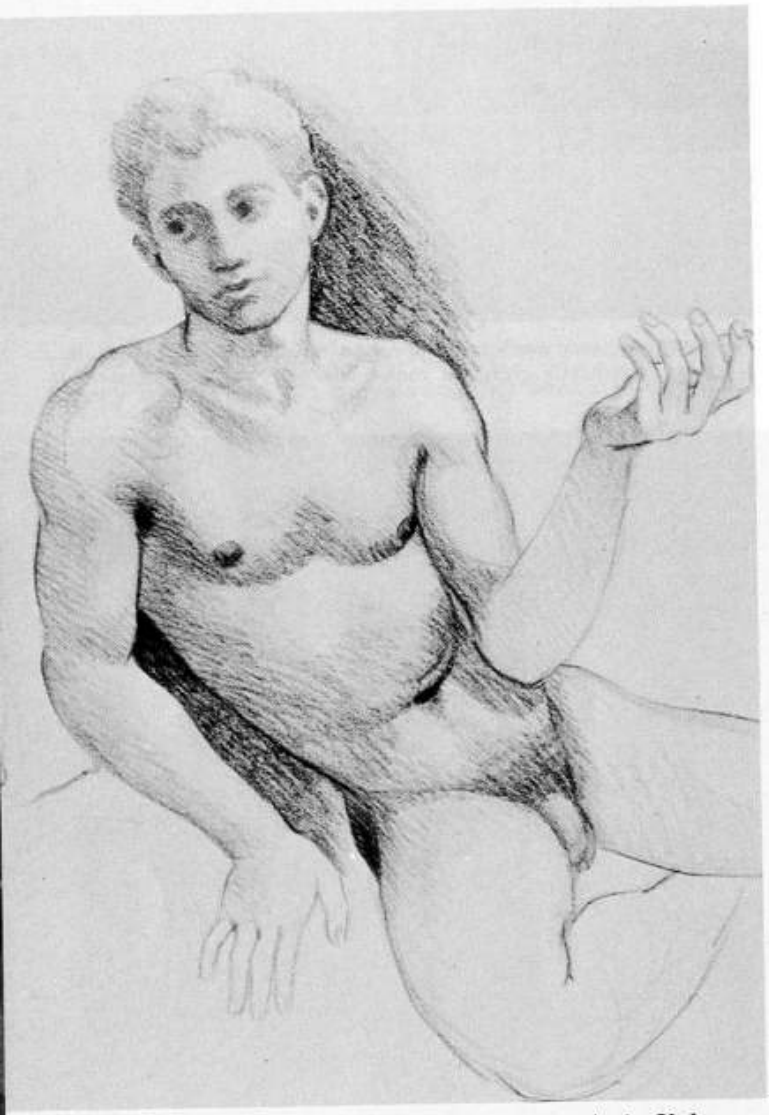
There is absolutely no reason why it should. Individual straights who have developed sound heterosexual patterns and convey this pattern to their children, will rarely be tempted by homosexuality. However, to persecute literally millions of individuals merely because of what they choose to do in bed together in private creates untold misery and has no positive features whatsoever.

Increasingly, our society is awakening to the fact that it is the individual's right to make his own sex preferences.

The world is in very little danger of being overrun by gays, who ask only to be allowed to love whom and how they please.

ON 'COMING OUT'

For those who have grown up with their homosexuality, being gay is as natural as breathing. But the conscious decision to turn gay becomes more difficult the older one gets. Following are only a few of the many questions you might get from someone thinking about coming out.



Artist Unknown

Isn't it natural to fear having one's gay tendencies made public?

Certainly, if such knowledge can be used in a discriminatory way. It is a sad commentary on our society that, though things have greatly improved, a homosexual still has a lot to lose if his sexual proclivities become general knowledge. Job discrimination, family pressures, possible loss of straight friends—all are valid reasons why many gays hesitate to make their homosexuality known. But in too many gays, this fear borders on paranoia, and can harm the individual almost as much as the revelation of his true nature.

If a person really wants to come out into gay life, what alternative does he really have in letting his homosexuality be known?

Very few gays make a point of running up and down the street waving a banner and saying "Hi; my name is Sam, and I'm gay" to perfect strangers. Once one has made the decision to come out, letting others know about it is a matter of weighing the advantages of their knowing (the simple desire for honesty, the need not to have to play games about "when are you going to get married?", etc.) against what possible discriminatory harm can they do—and how likely are they to do it).

As a rule of thumb, those people directly involved in one's personal life on a day-to-day basis have a right to know; those who know little or nothing of your personal life have no need to be let in on it.

Don't all homosexuals feel guilty?

Some do, unfortunately; their upbringing has been so negative in relation to **any** deviation from the "norm" that it is hardly surprising. However, it is probably safe to say that in the 1970s the majority of homosexuals are able to realize that there is as little point to feeling guilty about being gay as there is to feeling guilty about the color of one's eyes—both are facts of life and should be accepted as such.

More and more, psychologists and psychiatrists are accepting the fact that no individual should feel ashamed of his sexual preferences. Even churches are beginning (though slowly) to make a conscious effort to remove the guilt that our Judeo-Christian heritage has, for centuries, associated with all forms of sexuality.

Aren't most gays disturbed people who don't fit into society?

Not at all. The vast majority of gays are "normal" in all respects except for their choice of sex partners. The more research that takes place, the more our sexually repressive society is impressed with the fact that homosexuals are often more self-confident and secure than heterosexuals. It all depends on the individual.

Is it true that many men turn gay in the service?

Dr. Kinsey, a pioneer sex researcher and author of **Sexual Behavior in the Human Male,** says no. He estimated that not over five percent of men who have homosexual experiences in the army were introduced to the gay world while in the service. To quote Wardell Pomeroy, in **Dr. Kinsey and the Institute for Sex Research,** "In or out of the army, the prime factor in the development of homosexuality, as his data showed, was the failure of society to approve premarital heterosexual relations, and that was true of both males and females." Dr. Pomeroy's comments may be a little simplistic, there being far more factors than he states.

The point is that some men undoubtedly do take advantage of the service to come out—but only those who were prone to being gay before they went in. It is highly unlikely that a predominantly straight male would make the permanent switch to homosexuality just because he was in the service.

Is sex more important to gays than straights?

While an individual's preferences for a sex partner have no direct link to the intensity of his sex drive, it might appear that sex is more im-

Latent gays should recognize that a man can be the recipient partner in anal intercourse without being "feminine."

The objectives of sex—the sharing of love and sexual release—are the same, whether one is straight or gay.

portant to gays than straights for several reasons. Gays change partners more often and experience more variety than most heterosexuals, over a longer period, largely because gays as a rule have more of an **opportunity** to do so than straights. Some psychiatrists are doubtful as to whether most gays have the emotional stability to have a really deep relationship with one person which can last into old age.

What are the parallels between heterosexual and homosexual lovemaking?

Human responses to sex are basically the same regardless of the sex of the partner. In foreplay, exactly the same general procedures are followed. Gays kiss and caress just as straights, in a manner aimed at sexual arousal. Generally, however, foreplay between gays is of far shorter duration than between men and women. The homosexual male, after all, is like any male. He knows what he wants and what he is there for. Preliminaries are, as a rule, generally more condensed than with straights.

In a gay relationship, is it always necessary for one partner to be dominant while the other is passive?

While there may be a general tendency for this to be true, it is not always so. Surprisingly, gay sex customs seem to vary from one part of the country to the other. Anal intercourse, for example, is not apparently as prevalent in the Midwest as it is on the West Coast. It is likewise true that in certain areas of the country a gay

relationship will more often be comprised of one specifically passive (fem) and one specifically dominant (butch) partner.

Is everybody either 100 percent homosexual or 100 percent heterosexual?

Kinsey long ago laid that idea to rest. He devised a seven-stage scale, the opposing ends of which were 100 percent homosexuality and 100 percent heterosexuality; in the exact center is "ideal" bisexuality—50 percent homosexual, 50 percent heterosexual. The other four stages are gradations between. Kinsey pointed out that the vast majority of people fell into one of these gradations—very few were at either end or directly in the middle.

How many homosexuals are exclusively gay?

No one knows for sure, of course, but in his book, **The Homosexual Revolution,** R.E.L. Masters says: "Taking into account past and present knowledge and speculation, one might hazard a guess that the present world population of males predominantly or exclusively homosexual is somewhere between 50 and 100 million, while the world lesbian population is perhaps somewhere between 10 and 25 millions."

Do gays ever marry women?

Yes, for a number of reasons. Some marry before they come out, either not being aware of their gay tendencies or in an effort to suppress them. Others marry strictly for protective coloration, or to have children; still others because they think that the very act of marrying can make them heterosexual. Whatever the reason, it is rather like walking a tightrope, and few are completely happy in either world.

Can a homosexual lead a satisfactory heterosexual life?

Many homosexuals can indeed function as heterosexuals, and from that standpoint their lives might be said to be "satisfactory." However, the basic fact of their homosexuality makes it unlikely that they can forego homosexual contacts permanently without a good deal of emotional conflict and discomfort.

Does the law distinquish between a homosexual and a bisexual?

Where sexual relations between males is forbidden by law, any two men cought in the act would be considered guilty and probably prosecuted under laws against homosexuals. A man may be married and have children, but if he is caught in the commission of a sexual act with another man, he will be treated as a lawbreaker and labeled by the press and public as a homosexual.

The emergence of gay lib organizations is slowly bringing about changes in this area, however, and such groups are actively working to change such discriminatory laws.

Our puritanical mofes make it difficult for latent gays to accept the fact that love between two men is not shameful.

Gay sex is often on a level of sharing and equality that most heterosexuals find almost impossible to comprehend.

Can two gay men be legally married?

Gay marriage ceremonies are becoming more common, and are often performed with the consent of the church. The legality of such alliances, however, is now being tested in the courts and it looks like a long struggle.

Are there happily "married" homosexuals?

There are some gays who have lived together as lovers for twenty-five years or longer. Many times a breakup between a gay couple is brought on by social pressures of one sort or another, the disagreements not originating within the partnership itself.

Why don't most gay marriages seem to last?

It is infinitely more difficult for a gay relationship to survive than for a straight union, for obvious reasons. Perhaps the major factor is that both partners are men, and were raised with the same masculine identity problems as their heterosexual brothers. Men are expected to be sexual aggressors, and sexual infidelity is probably the largest single factor in the breakup of a gay relationship.

Why do some women seem to dig gay men?

There are several reasons. Some find homosexuals more interesting and more understanding than straight men. Others enjoy being able to "be themselves" without having to compete with other women for a man's attention. Still others make it a point to try to lure gays into bed, thus "proving" that they can do something other women cannot.

How do most gays make love?

There is a great deal of orality in gay lovemaking; gays undoubtedly make more use of the mouth and tongue than straight men. Other than that, as was mentioned earlier, the range of gay lovemaking is as unlimited as that of straights.

If a guy has made up is mind to come out, how does he find someone to do it with?

Any sizable city has at least one gay bar where willing partners can be found without having to look for special badges or physical characteristics. Private parties where there are a number of singles attending are always good places to meet compatible people. Larger cities have gay gymnasia, restaurants, shops, and baths catering exclusively to gays.

How does one know what to do in bed, if this is the first time?

Fortunately, sex has no set rules. The important thing is to simply try to relax and play it by ear; instinct will do most of the rest. It might be well to remember, though, that sex is a two-way street; if the partner knows it is a first-time, he'll probably take that into consideration and not expect too much in return, but absolutely no response at all can be frustrating.

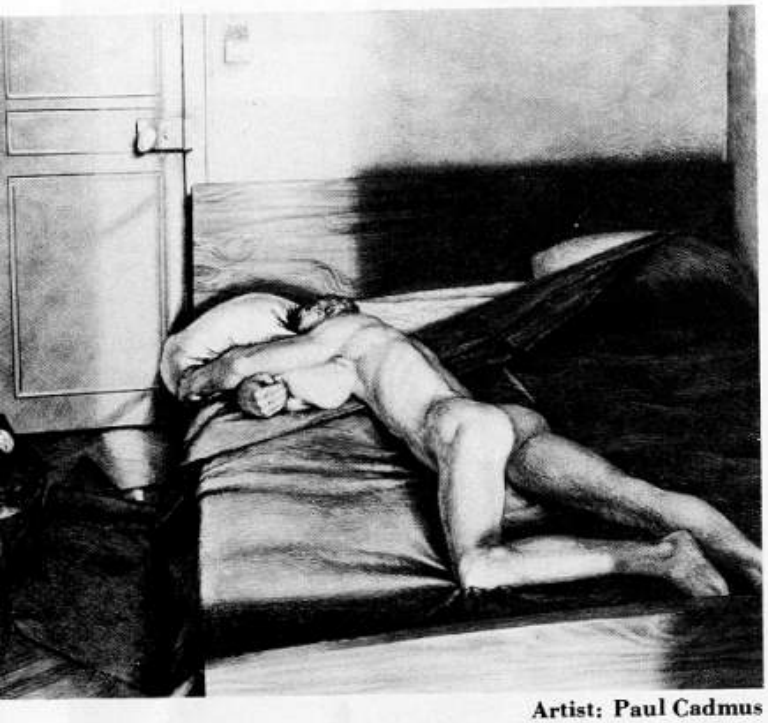
What advice might be given to someone, to help him decide whether he wants to come out or not?

In the final analysis, the decision must, of course, be made by the individual, and only qualified professionals are in a position to offer qualified advice. However, speaking strictly as a layman, and with no special qualifications, "advice" of this type would depend largely on the age of the individual and his other mental attitudes. If, for example, he were a 20-year-old who had always been attracted to men but either had not had the opportunity or resisted the temptation (and yet had little or no heterosexual experience or desire) he might be well advised to simply try it and see. However, if his anxiety were so great that it was effecting his emotional balance, or if he were a married family man with a lot to lose by making the switch, he would be wise to seek professional help in making his decision.

Since our culture expects all men to be sexually aggressive, it is difficult for many gays to be faithful to one partner.

SEXUAL SOLITAIRE

Masturbation is an almost universal practice among both straights and gays, yet it is so roundly condemned as "unnatural" by our sexually repressive society that few straights—and possibly fewer gays—can engage in the act without some degree of guilt.



Artist: Paul Cadmus

Is masturbation common among married gays?

Most psychiatrists and psychologists agree that it is, indeed. Some gays with lovers are a little shocked when they first discover their partners masturbating. However, solo masturbation does not necessarily mean that a couple's sex relations are unsatisfactory; one partner may simply have a stronger sex drive than the other and choose to masturbate rather than annoy his mate, or look for sex elsewhere. It is only when masturbation replaces **all** intercourse that there is cause for alarm.

Do single gays masturbate more often than single straights?

There are no definite statistics available, but it's not likely that there would be much difference in the frequency with which gays and straights masturbate. The need or simple desire to masturbate is a human reaction not limited to straights or gays.

Single adults, both gay and straight, masturbate to dissipate tensions which can build up in the nervous system, and most psychiatrists look on it as a healthy phenomenon.

What are the origins of the idea that masturbation is bad?

The Old Testament, from which many of our traditional ideas about sex originated, mentions Onan, who was condemned for "spilling his seed on the ground," generally misinterpreted as meaning he masturbated. At a time when the expansion of the population was vital for survival of the race, any sex act that did not result in procreation was perhaps justifiably considered wasteful. (This same reasoning, incidentally, is largely responsible for condemnation of homosexuality.)

Is masturbation really harmful?

Authorities agree that masturbation is not harmful in itself, despite our cherished childhood myths. Among its other attributes, in fact, psychologists and psychiatrists believe it is a good method of relieving sexual tension. However, masturbation is usually looked upon as a **substitute** for sexual relations with another person; it may be psychologically damaging if it becomes an end in itself.

Hasn't the development of psychiatry changed the "masturbation is naughty" concept?

Myths die hard. Even the great apostle of sexual motivation, Sigmund Freud, had the idea that masturbators were neurasthenics—that is, people afflicted by excessive worry, fatigue, and physical disturbances. Masturbation has only recently begun to become acceptable—and then not to everyone.

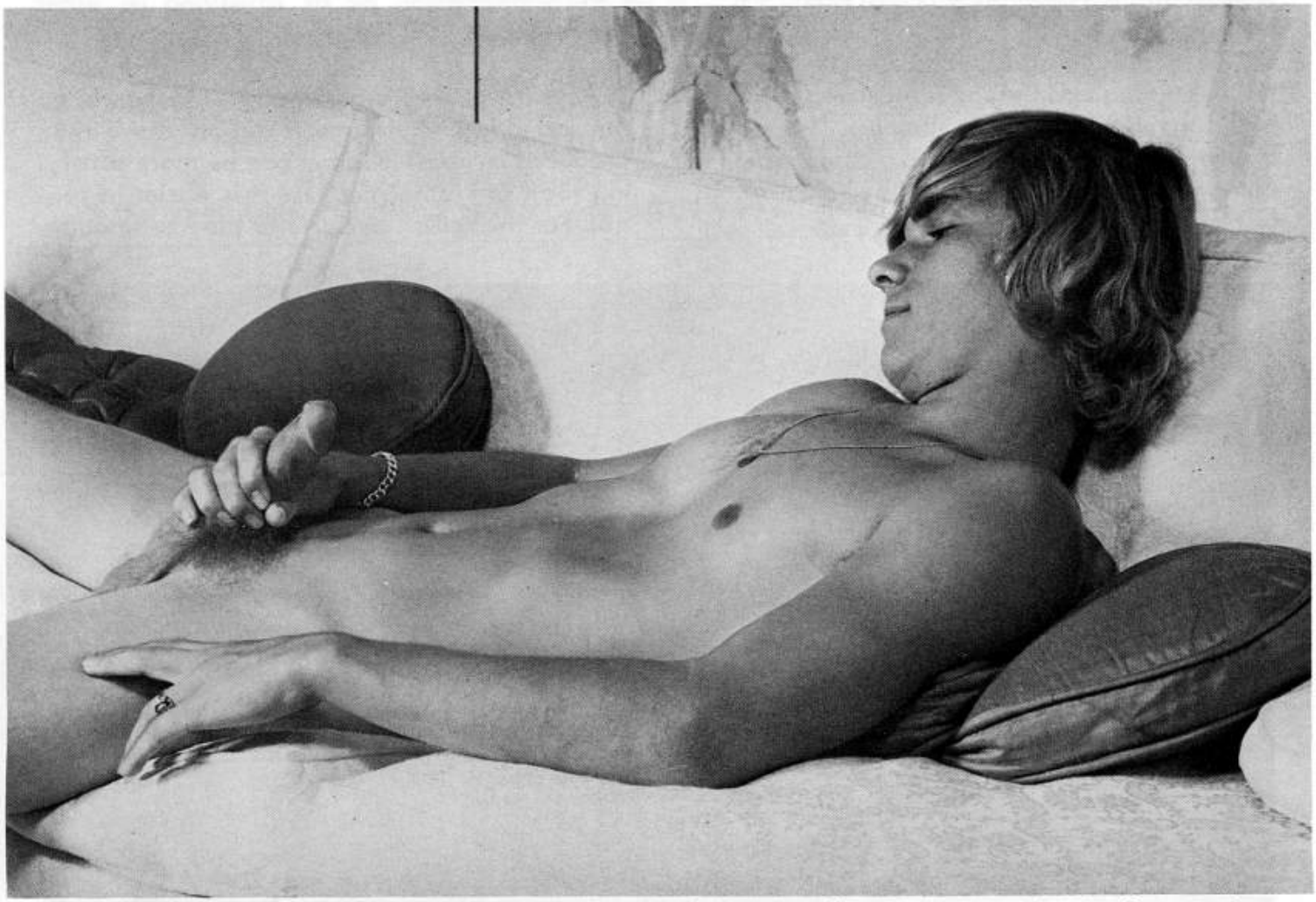
Is masturbation a purely physical act?

Sometimes. But usually the erection and excitation depend upon erotic fantasizing for initial impulse and maintenance stimulus. This may be accomplished entirely through a combination of imagination and erotic literature, illustrations, or other material.

Can masturbation be as satisfying as other forms of sex?

Physically, yes; emotionally, it depends on the individual. Researchers report the climax produced by masturbation can be more satisfying than any other because it is easier to control. For the selfish person this may be enough,

Seduction of or by another willing male is generally preferable to most gays, but masturbation is a favored substitute.



Sexual fantasies involving past or wished-for encounters commonly precede and/or accompany a gay's masturbatory sessions.

but for the well-balanced, mature individual, there is nothing like a complete sexual experience, sharing affection and physical contact with another person.

What are the different forms of masturbation in use by gay males?

There are five generally recognized variations: self-masturbation in view of a partner, self-masturbation in a partner's embrace, masturbation of a partner (actually manual stimulation of a partner), mutual masturbation by two or more partners (actually mutual manual stimulation), and the rubbing together of different body surfaces by two partners.

Isn't the term "self-masturbation" redundant?

Technically, yes. Masturbation is by definition "**self**-stimulation;" therefore, technically, one can only masturbate himself, and what is generally called mutual masturbation is actually mutual manual stimulation of genitals.

Why would a couple of guys masturbate when other possibilities are available to them?

Simply because it is one form of sexual variety. Some sexologists think homosexuals become locked into sex at the time they begin masturbating, so therefore they use masturbation as the primary source of sex. This is probably true, in some cases. It is also true that some guys have sex hangups that preclude their taking any more active role.

Is masturbation a desirable adjunct to other forms of sex?

Actually, much foreplay activity is masturbatory in technique. Fondling of the penis is al-

most a universal reaction during the initial stages of the encounter; the rubbing together of bodies during embraces; even the conscious act of masturbation as an arousal technique—all are natural. Actual masturbation can continue for as long as either partner feels he can enjoy it without ejaculating, or until either partner indicates a desire for other forms of activity.

In what way can masturbation be a direct benefit for other kinds of sex activity?

If a man has difficulty achieving an erection for any reason, he may choose to stimulate himself briefly—or not so briefly—to aid erection. Few men who are familiar with their own bodies owing to frequent solitary masturbation can fail to achieve tumescence with this method. The exception to this rule is the man who considers masturbation so embarrassing that his penis fails to become erect while someone else is watching.

However, an element of voyeurism, present in all of us, can often add spice to a sex session. One or both partners may also use self-stimulation in conjunction with fellatio.

Is there another way masturbation can be used in a mutual-sex context?

Manual stimulation of or by the passive partner in anal intercourse is fairly common, when the positions used permit (see the further discussion of this point in the section on analism in this issue).

Can excessive masturbation be in any way damaging?

How much is too much? The same standards apply to frequency of masturbation as to any other mode of sexual release. Whatever is enough for the individual is the proper frequency. As has been mentioned, some men require more frequent sexual release than others. Certainly, no physical damage can be done by frequent masturbation. If the incidence reaches the point where tissue damage commences through abrasion, the sensations will be of pain rather than pleasure, thus applying a natural limit on the frequency of masturbation.

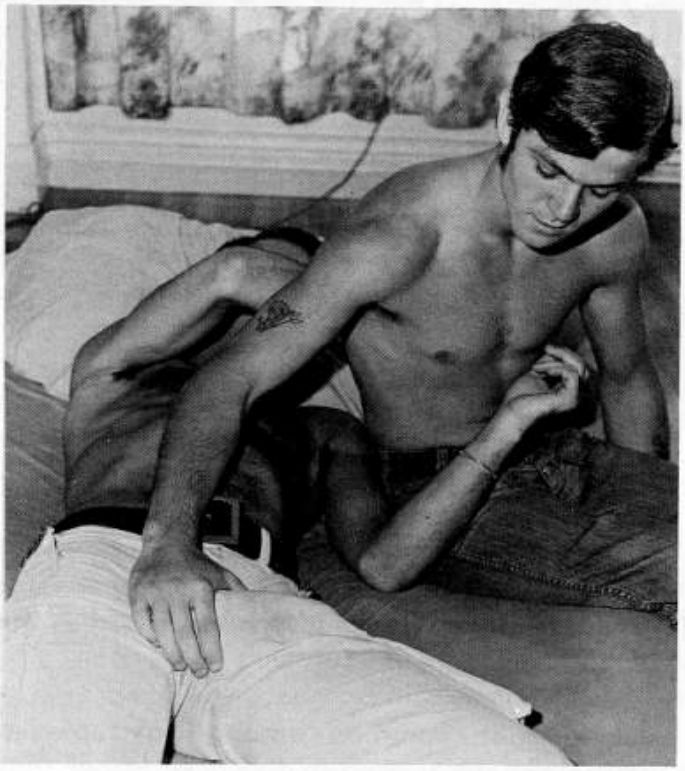
Can masturbation become preferable to other forms of sex?

There is always a danger, however slight, that for some individuals masturbation may become the preferred form of sexual activity. Such a situation would be morbid and neurotic and would hinder the person's chances of establishing a good relationship with another human being.

Will frequent masturbation, practiced by either partner, in any way lessen his interest in other types of sex?

The only real danger to a lover relationship would be if the pair's other sex has become totally unsatisfying for either partner, who then turns to masturbation for release.

If satisfaction has been lacking due to faulty technique or insensitive behavior on either mate's side, full orgasmic release through masturbation can easily become preferred. Generally, however, the practice of masturbation, whether pursued in solitude or in a mutual context as a variation, should not affect joint sex activity at all except perhaps to increase pleasure. It isn't an either/or situation, but a matter of enjoying both simultaneously or sepa-



Curiosity about the sex equipment of other men is natural in all human males, and may lead to sexual experimentation.

A young man's first mutual sex experience is often with a friend, and most frequently takes the form of masturbation.

rately. In any case, knowing how a person best satisfies himself can only increase the ability of his partner to satisfy him.

How does that work?

Simple. Observing a partner while he masturbates will give a clue as to what part of the penis seems most sensitive; whether he enjoys a heavy pressure or light touch; fast action or a slower pace—all of which will be advantageous either in fellatio or mutual manual stimulation encounters. Too few gays are really observant of those things which give their partners pleasure—but those who are generally are very popular sex partners.

Mutual masturbation is often mentioned. Is this a common practice?

It is quite common among gay couples, though generally used in foreplay rather than completely to orgasm. Again, remember that, in popular use, the term is technically confusing, being applied either to the act of partners simultaneously masturbating themselves, or two men simultaneously manually stimulating each other.

Can the masturbator use any artifacts?

A number of electric vibrators with cone-shaped cups to fit over the head of the penis are available on the market. Some of the more anally oriented enjoy masturbating while simultaneously simulating anal intercourse with a vibrator or dildo. The penis-shaped vibrators are said to be quite popular.

Such devices, of course, can also be used during mutual sex activities.

Are there any physical dangers in the use of these artifacts?

An AC powered vibrator can, of course, shock the user if shorted by frayed wiring or body fluids. The battery-powered types operate on too low voltage to be dangerous. With other devices, care must be taken to avoid sharp points or edges—and the anally oriented should be careful not to try to insert anything too large or too fragile.

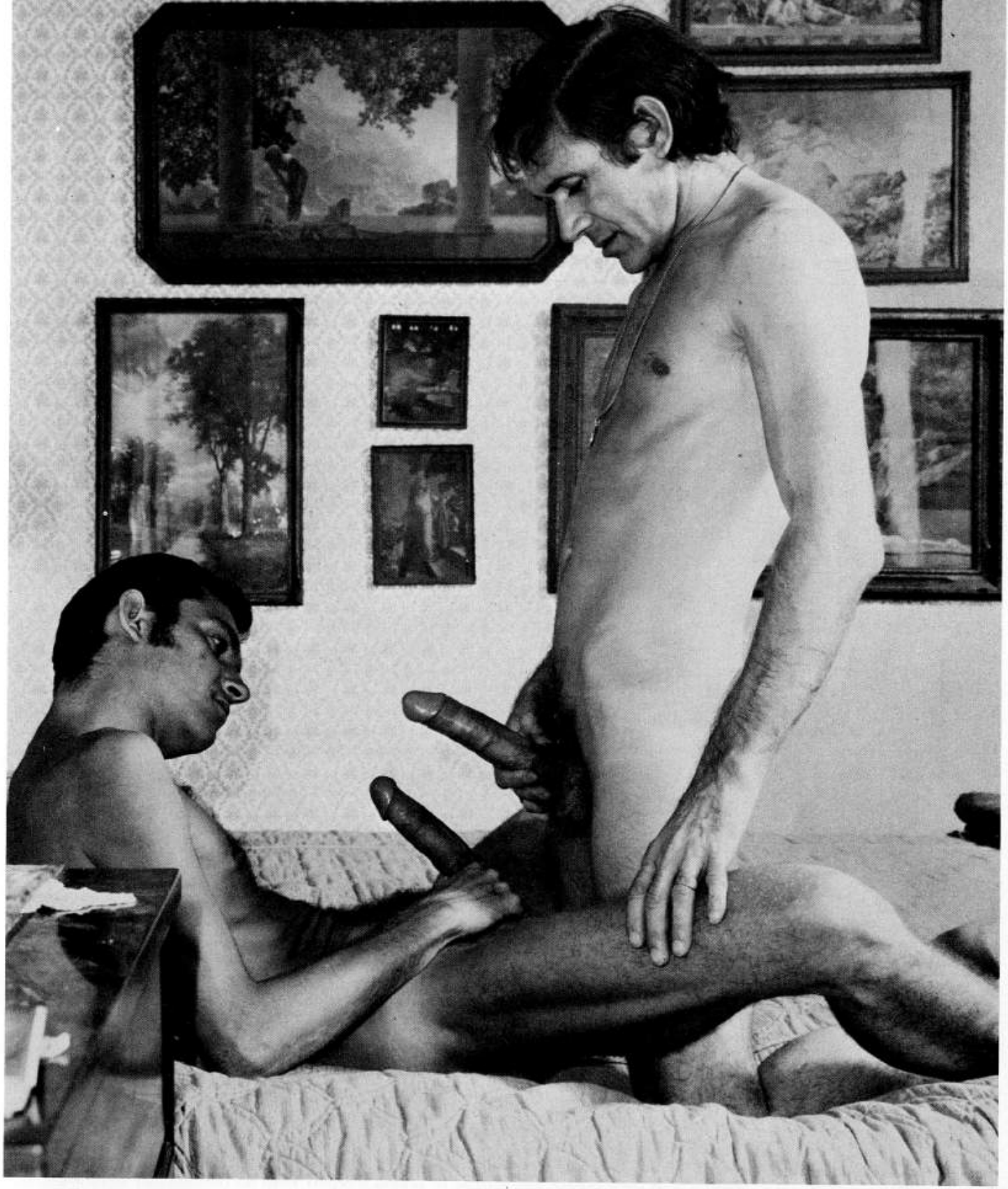
Are there any favored techniques for masturbation?

Some men prefer a slow, steady, gentle rhythm of squeezing and caressing in order to prolong the act and slowly bring themselves to orgasm. Others perform violently ("beating their meat" is the schoolboy term) and eventually may desensitize the nerve endings so that they are not able to climax as easily through fellatio or anal intercourse.

But each individual develops his own favored technique.

What are some of the most common masturbation methods?

The hand alone, of course, is the most common. Most males find the hand sufficient, since masturbation as it is usually practiced by men is for the purpose of achieving fast orgasm. Oth-



Because watching a partner masturbate is a turn-on for many gays, the action is often used for mutual arousal.

ers, however, find various techniques or aids, as already mentioned, greatly increase preorgasmic pleasure during orgasm.

A favorite method is the use of soap-film while bathing or showering. The soap acts as a lubricant and increases sensation. Other lubricants (even shaving cream) work equality well. Others find that nonmanual stimulation works best. In this case, the penis is placed against some yielding surface such as a cushion or mattress, and coital thrusts are made until orgasm is reached. A piece of natural or synthetic fur may be used to enclose the penis while manually stroking it.

Still others use other variations which are limited only by the imagination.

FOREPLAY IN GAY SEX

All American males are raised to consider sex an end in itself and foreplay to be strictly something women need for arousal. Most wise gays soon learn, however, that an extended period of sexual foreplay can act as an erotic escalator to new heights of pleasure.

Gays probably make far more erotic use of their mouth and tongue in sexual foreplay than do the majority of straight men.

How important is foreplay in arousing a sex partner?

Most men need a certain amount of sexual foreplay before intercourse (whatever form that may take)—though men need less actual physical stimulation than women. Men are quite easily aroused by any number of stimuli: physical beauty, some fetish objects, music, or other erotic factors. Remember, the purpose of foreplay is to arouse, and foreplay can do much to heighten the pleasure of sex.

Should fellatio be the first act of foreplay?

Many sexologists suggest, rather, that fellatio should be the natural follow-up to other

Analingus is a form of foreplay still not commonly used by many gays—but considered highly erotic by those who do.

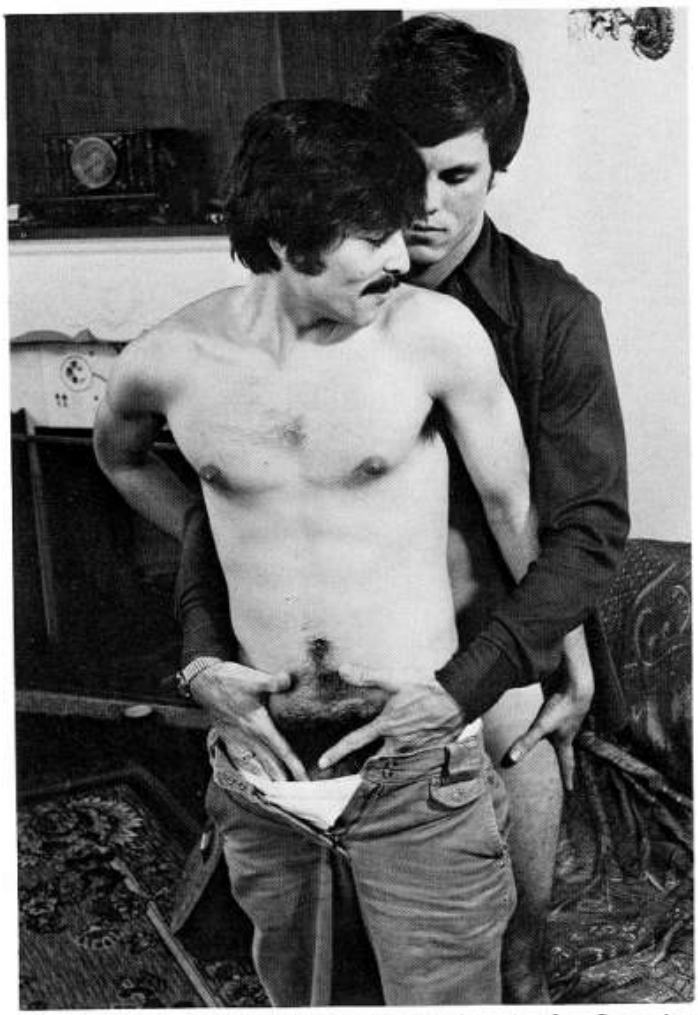
foreplay, such as oral caresses on particular non-genital erogenous zones. Fellatio (which is discussed in a later section of this issue) will quite probably occur without any cue, as a natural step.

How does foreplay start?

Foreplay begins the moment the two men are alone, and they touch. The important thing to remember is that there are no rules to foreplay—the only reason to discuss it at all is to point out a few things that might currently be overlooked, and to reassure worriers that lovemaking agreeable to any couple is both natural and acceptable.

Is it preferable for both parties to be completely nude during foreplay?

Foreplay properly commences before any clothing has been removed; with a first-time encounter, the pleasures of discovery should not be rushed. Of course, as the foreplay progresses, the tactile sensation of skin against skin only serves to increase arousal.



A mutual undressing (particularly if it is the first time for the couple) can add much to the excitement of foreplay.

Can a mutual undressing be made part of gay foreplay?

Not only can, but should. Again, it is important that no time limits be placed on foreplay. A mutual undressing, each partner taking the time to become familiar with each part of the other's body as it becomes exposed is exciting.

What about a joint bath or shower?

A great idea. Such an act serves two purposes: it is, despite popular fiction, an unusual enough activity to provide stimulus in itself; it gives a reason to engage in some close contact sports with the partner—and it assures cleanliness.

Is kissing important in foreplay?

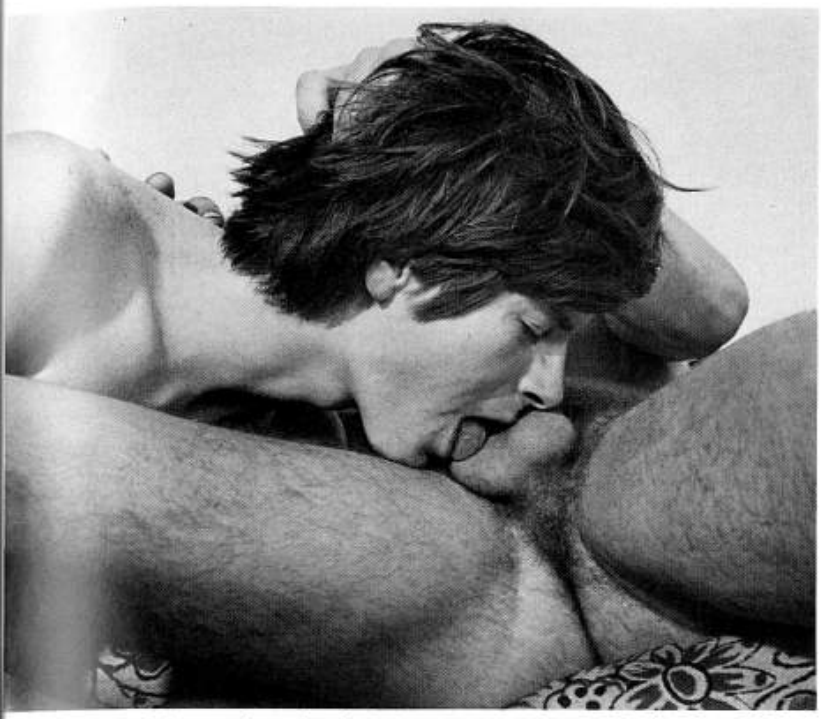
In most western civilizations, mouth-to-mouth contact is one of the most direct methods of expressing affection. It is therefore an extremely basic part of foreplay for most gays.

How should one man kiss another?

This varies with each individual. Some prefer long, passionate kisses; others, short, vigorous ones. Some require simultaneous manipulation of their sex organs, while others might be so over-stimulated by this action that they ejaculate prematurely. There is also the important choice of where to kiss—ears, nipples, genitals, or other erogenous zones. Nature, however, usually manages to take over so that no textbook is needed.

Is the "french kiss" a natural part of foreplay?

Many gays consider the "french kiss" (or "soul kiss") something special that they don't do with ordinary tricks. A french kiss can be highly arousing, involving, as it does, an inter-



Discovering the location and degree of sensitivity of the partner's erogenous zones is an exciting part of foreplay.

twining of tongues as well as a blending of lips. The tongue can serve as an exotic version of the penis, and the thrusting of the tongue into the partner's mouth can be an exciting sensation for both partners.

How can one avoid a "hickey" during violent or extremely active lovemaking?

A "hickey" is a rupture of capillaries caused by a biting kiss, or by a strong suction applied to almost any area of the skin. Some men are more susceptible to hickeys than others.

Any kiss that includes prolonged nibbling or biting of one particular area will probably leave a hickey on the skin of the person so kissed. It is difficult to avoid, especially when the partners are in the throes of sexual excitation. The best bet is to make sure that these marks are on regions of the skin which are not revealed in normal everyday wear. Either that, or the one with hickeys must wear a high-collared, long-sleeved shirt (necks, shoulders, and upper arms are most prone to hickeys.)

What are the most common of the male erogenous zones?

Men are not thought to have as many erogenous zones as women, but this is probably largely due to the fact that a man is trained almost from birth to be physically unresponsive in almost every part of his body except the genitals. However, men who learn to relax will soon discover they—and with their help, their partners—have a number of definite erogenous zones. Chief among them are the nipples, the small of the back, the juncture of the legs and scrotum, the armpits, and the inside of the knees. The soles of the feet are particularly erogenous on some men.

Experimentation will reveal which of the above areas mentioned—and which areas not mentioned—get a response out of the partner. Taking one's time to find out can be fun.

Are male nipples really sensitive to oral stimulation?

Though few men are aware of it, the male nipple is very much like that of the female in that it becomes erect and hard in response to stimulation. Some men are so negatively conditioned to expressing emotion, however, that they either can't or won't react to such stimulation. Others go up the wall.

What are the various forms of oral stimulation —other than fellatio—used in foreplay?

The mouth, tongue, and lips can be used effectively to stimulate any part of the human body. The most common erogenous zones have already been mentioned, but other areas should not be neglected. The throat, navel, groin, and any folds of the body are particularly susceptible to such attention—and should get it. A tongue bath is an excellent way to include all these areas.

What, exactly, is a tongue bath?

Let's take an example. Starting with a long kiss, and without moving the lips from the surface of the partner's body, slowly move the mouth across his chin and down his neck, using the tongue as a broad paint brush. A sharp in-

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Overleaf: **The penis, rubbed teasingly against the anal opening, can help relax the muscles for anal intercourse.**

Foreplay should have no time limit, and every action can and should be given the time needed for its full sensual impact.

haling of breath creates a skin-chilling effect, as a hot exhalation on the moist skin does a warm one. Taking all the time needed, move the mouth and tongue slowly over the entire body, including every square inch of skin surface (usually achieved by working down the front of the body to the toes, turning the partner over, then working back up the partner's back). The results can be most pleasantly surprising for both partners.

I've heard the term "shrimping," but don't know what it means. What is shrimping?

"Shrimping" refers to the act of sucking the toes. Not the most common of gay activities, perhaps, but many who try it find that the toes themselves are quite erogenous. It is a natural part of a tongue bath and, if the response of the partner is particularly favorable, it can be repeated later as a separate action.

Is the scrotum very sensitive?

On some men, excruciatingly so. It should definitely be included in a tongue bath, and most men find the entire genital area from penis to anus to be quite sensitive and erotically responsive. It must be remembered, however, that on many men the scrotum is extremely sensitive, so care must be taken not to be too rough unless the partner indicates that rougher treatment would be appreciated.

Would oral stimulation of the anus be a normal part of foreplay?

Once again, anything which gives pleasure to a partner is to be considered normal. Our culture is so negatively conditioned to the anal area that many gays fail to consider any anal contact as part of foreplay. (A section on analism is included later in this issue.) Not only oral

stimulation, but manual manipulation of the anus can also be incorporated into foreplay activities. It should be recalled that the anus is the most direct route to the prostate gland, which controls male ejaculation.

How does one correctly massage the prostate gland in foreplay?

One of the best ways is as follows: lubricate a finger until it is moist enough to slip easily inside the sphincter muscle of the anus. This should, of course, be done slowly and carefully. If the partner hasn't been so negatively conditioned toward anality that he resists the advance, he may well find the sensation most pleasant. Once fully inside, the finger can be rotated slowly. The prostate, which can't always be easily located, will receive the motion and, as a result, the partner may become extremely receptive to anything which might follow.

How might one increase his partner's satisfaction in foreplay?

One of the most obvious ways is to ask him what particularly turns him on—or off. Every man has his own pet likes and dislikes as far as erogenous zones, methods of stimulation, etc.

But perhaps the best way, once again, is simply to play it by ear. Take your time, relax, be willing to experiment, and enjoy it.

How long should foreplay last?

The purpose of foreplay is arousal, and any single act of foreplay can be expanded or carried through to orgasm. Increasingly, gays (like their straight brothers) are learning that it is perfectly all right for men to show affection, and equally permissible to take the time to enjoy it fully.

In brief, foreplay should last just long enough for both partners to want to move on to the main event.

Some guys just don't like to neck. What do you do then?

If the guy is a trick—a one-night stand—there's not much that can be done about it. If you're together for sex, then sex it is, though it may be a bit disappointing to someone used to at least a bit of foreplay. A relationship is not completely sexual, though, so if anything further develops from it, fine. It's all up to the individual to judge what is important to him and what is not.

Foreplay should last just long enough for both partners to want to move on to the main event, be it oral or anal.

AN INTRODUCTION TO FELLATIO

Oral-genitalism has many variations and many names, but among gays, fellatio is not only the most popular form of oral-genital activity—it is probably the most common of all sex acts.

Fellatio includes any sex act in which one partner kisses, sucks, or licks the other's penis.

What is "fellatio"?

Fellatio is an oral sex act in which the active partner kisses, sucks, or licks the passive partner's penis—either to produce orgasm and ejaculation, or to moisten the penis for manual manipulation or anal insertion.

Is fellatio very common among gays?

It is reported that oral stimulation of the genitals occurred at some time in the sex histories of 60 percent of the college-educated people studied. Considering that most of these were probably straight, and the oral-genitalism referred to primarily heterosexual, it is quite likely that fellatio among gays is much more common. Unfortunately, exact statistics are unavailable.

Then the average gay is more orally-oriented than the average straight?

Most behaviorists believe so. Gays are also generally—but not always correctly—considered to be more expert at this practice than straights are. It is, of course true that to many gays, oral sex is the **only** way to make love.

Why are men so stimulated by fellatio?

The genitals are a man's primary erogenous zone, and the most sensitive and responsive areas of the genitals are the head of the penis, the frenulum (the tissue on the underside of the glans) and the penile shaft—all places that may easily be stimulated by the mouth. In addition, for many gays, there is a definite psychological satisfaction from having another man's mouth on his penis.

Is there any sound biological background for fellatio in lovemaking?

Oral-genital contacts between animals in heat are very common. Both biologists and psychologist have noted this activity in lower forms of life and have no reason to think that, somewhere along in our evolutionary development, humans were any different. They reason that, for modern men to return to such a basic practice is neither unreasonable nor aberrant.

Is there any relationship between ego security and interest in oral-genital sex?

According to A.H. Maslow, who has studied sexual activities both in our culture and among primitives, individuals who have a high level of ego security are more likely to attempt every form of sexual contact than are people who have insecure egos. Gays with high ego security are apt to consider sex as fun and to find oral-genitalism just one more enjoyable act.

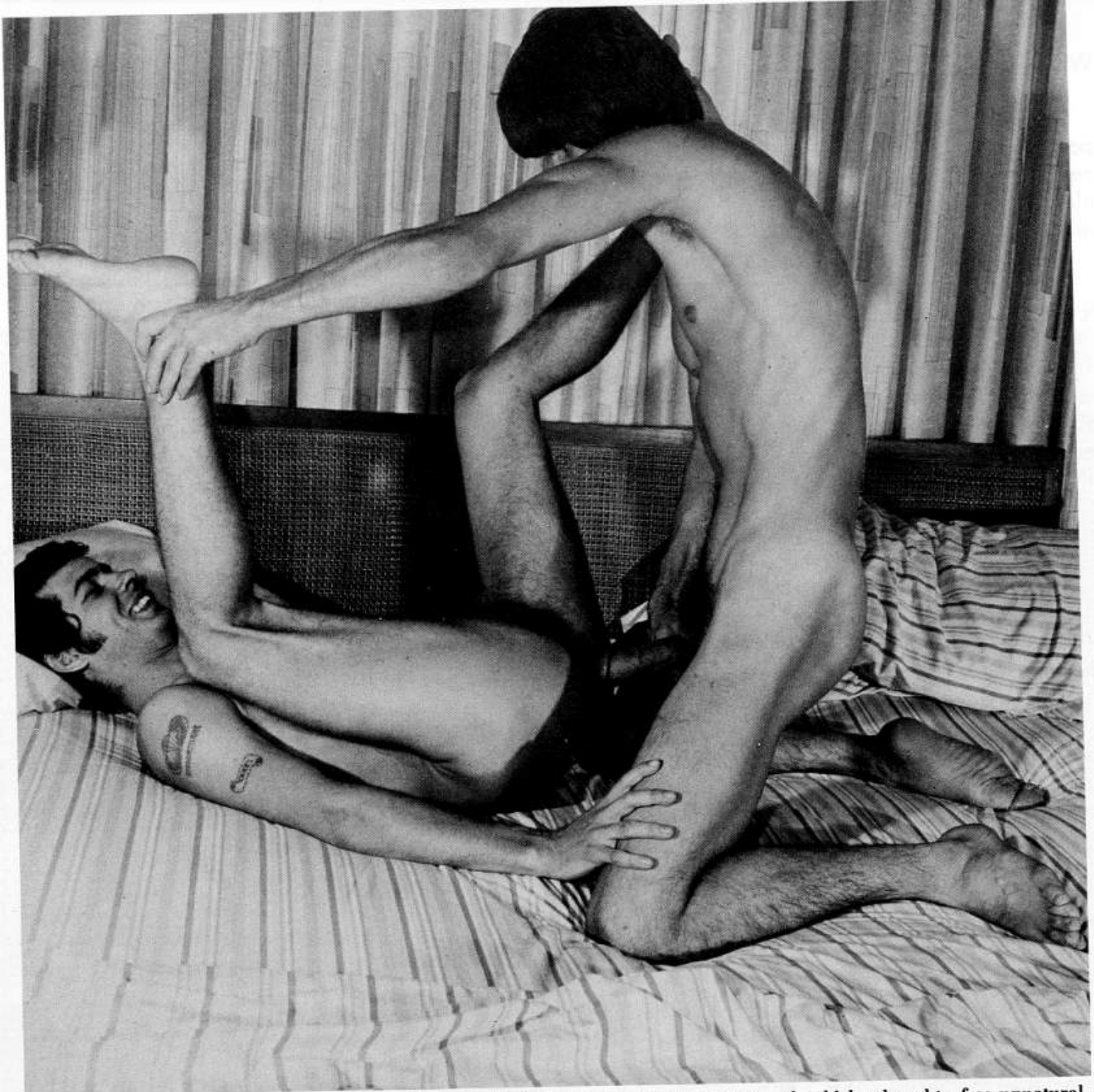
How about the existence of a link between a fondness for oral sex and one's educational background?

Yes, there most certainly is. Most sex researchers have found the incidence of oral-genital contacts to range from high to very low, depending upon educational level and the social structure of the community. Kinsey found that men from socially deprived, poor-income areas more often consider oral sex degrading and sinful. Men in that socioeconomic stratum, if they have gay oral sex at all, probably experience it only when they act as trade.

What do you mean by "trade"?

"Trade" refers to men who enjoy fellatio—but only when it is done to them; they them-

For most gays, fellatio is a natural method of expressing affection, and very few need encouragement to perform it.



Sex researchers believe that no sex act, performed with the consent of both partners, should be thought of as unnatural.

selves refuse to reciprocate. Often, someone who is "trade" is just in the process of coming out, and hasn't gotten to the stage of being able to fully express himself sexually with others. "Rough trade" is a different story—these are men with serious emotional problems who, after being fellated, take pleasure in beating up the fellator. Rough trade should be avoided at all costs, unless one enjoys being beaten.

But aren't some gays slightly masochistic?

Of course, and we'll go into that a little later, too. However, we might now touch on the relationship between masochism and fellatio. Dodd V. Banson, in **The Way Homosexuals Make Love** (Vol. 2) suggests that there is an element of masochism and a desire to be used evident in the activities of some gays whose desire for fellatio goes far beyond most. This is the type of individual who hangs out in tearooms (where the danger of arrest is always great) and who will take on all comers—the more the better.

Is fellatio an art?

Many consider it so. It calls for real technique to arouse and excite one's partner, then keep

building his pleasure to orgasm. It may be a cliche, but those who really enjoy performing fellatio generally are able to convey this pleasure to their partner.

Isn't oral-genital contact degrading to the person performing it?

In no way is it degrading—unless force is used to make the individual perform the act. Any sexual contact undertaken willingly is a worthwhile and beneficial practice. One is "degraded" only when one **thinks** he is.

Most sex researchers today insist that no sex act is either "unnatural" or degrading if it does not harm the participants, and if it is done with the desire and consent of those concerned. Other people may think the act degrading, but as long as they are not involved, it's none of their business.

But isn't the penis covered with germs?

In today's world, with its emphasis on physical cleanliness, there is absolutely no reason why the penis cannot—and should not—be kept as germ-free as any other part of the body. Doctors tell us there are far more germs in the mouth than in the genital area. Of course, in the not-too-distant past, when bathing was not as common as it is now and when the vast majority of men had not been circumcised, there may have been some validity to this belief.

What preparation is recommended before engaging in fellatio?

A good washing of the genitals and the mouth is enough. It goes without saying that if venereal disease is suspected, oral-genital contact should be avoided (as should **all** forms of sexual contact) until the suspicions are proven false or confirmed and the condition cured.

Where did the term "sixty-nine" come from?

"Sixty-nine," which is the almost universally accepted slang term for mutual, simultaneous oral-genital contact, receives its name from the resemblance of the two bodies, when in this position, to the numerals 6 and 9—it is, in short, a form of pictograph.

How can a guy get his partner to fellate him?

A lot depends on the relationship between the two. Let's assume that the partner is a trick, and this is only the first or second time they've been to bed together. If the partner is new to

Fellatio may be performed either as an act in itself, or as a natural extension of other foreplay such as a tongue bath.

the gay world and has never engaged in active fellatio before, one might want to give a sort of tactful "lesson" on how to do it, and assure the partner that ejaculation into the mouth will be avoided unless he wants it.

The best way, however, is to set an example, then diplomatically get into a 69 position where the partner can reciprocate as he sees fit.

Supposing your lover refuses to perform fellatio —how do you get him to do it?

This isn't an easy question to answer. It would depend upon the individual's reason for refusing. If the pair are lovers, they've obviously been to bed several times before **becoming** lovers, so the refusal should not come as any great surprise. Talking it over may help, and if the two really care for each other, the reluctant partner should be at least willing to try.

Some guys, of course, have been so negatively conditioned to the very idea of fellatio that it will take a long time before they can overcome their hangups—if they ever do. Patience is of primary importance in a case like this.

Not all gays, of course, enjoy fellatio. For them, a wide range of other foreplay and sex acts are still available.

Should the lover who wants fellatio resent his partner's refusal?

No; he should try to understand and overcome the reluctance. There are other forms of sex and, as was mentioned, if they are already lovers, something must be going right for them in the sex line.

However, if the urge to be fellated is strong in the partner who's being refused to the point where he cannot be satisfied sexually without mouth-to-genital intercourse, the pair have a basic decision to arrive at concerning their relationship: work it out, or break it up.

Is the ingestion of sperm and seminal fluid physically harmful?

Not at all. Many gays look upon swallowing semen of a love partner as a very deeply symbolic expression of their love. Some, however, simply don't like the taste, and their refusal to swallow shouldn't be taken as a sign of rejection.

Semen, incidentally, is almost pure protein.

Are there any dangers in performing oral sex?

Not as long as the active partner remembers to use caution and consideration. The penis is quite sensitive and must be treated gently whenever the teeth are brought into play. The passive partner should not hesitate to let his partner know if he feels any pain or discomfort.

Can venereal disease be avoided by using oral-genital contact?

No. VD can be transmitted during mouth-genital contact just as easily as it can be during anal intercourse. This is another reason why pe-

The desire to express affection and love through oral-genitalism is common, though not universal, among male homosexuals.

riodic blood tests are extremely important for **anyone** having sex with other individuals.

Why are some guys so inept at performing fellatio?

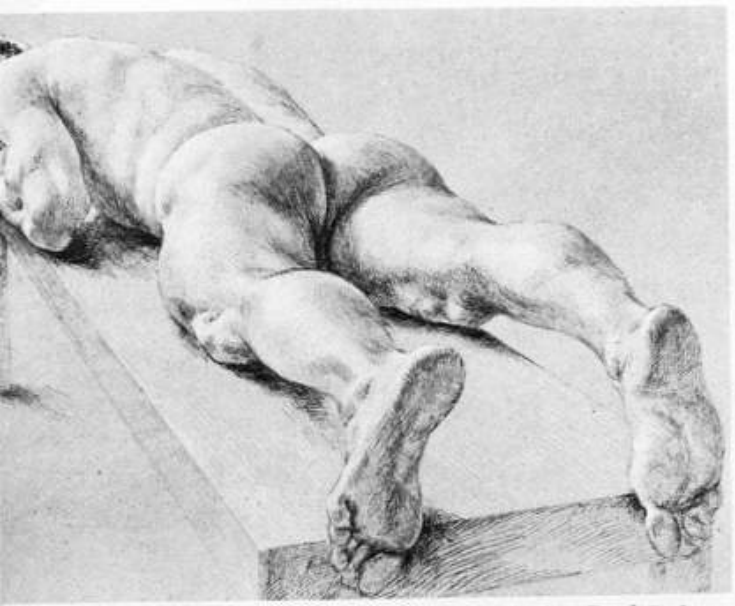
Some men may never have learned the proper techniques; others may not really care much for the act. Some do not pay sufficient attention to their partner's reactions to know when they are doing something right. Many inexperienced fellators do not apply sufficient pressure, just moving the penis in and out of their half-open mouths.

What are some of the best techniques for performing fellatio?

Time and space do not allow us to go into fellatio techniques in the detail they deserve, so we'll devote an entire section in a forthcoming issue of QUEST to the subject.

ANALISM—FOR EVERYONE?

"All homosexuals are sodomites" is one of the oldest of heterosexual cliches about gays. But the fact is that while many gays do, indeed, consider analism one of their primary forms of sexual activity, there are innumerable others who believe, as do straights, that it is "perverse." Who is right?



Artist: Paul Cadmus

Is analism strictly a homosexual practice?

By no means. Although the various forms of analism may be engaged in more by gays, proportionately, than straights, anal sexuality has been employed (and, presumably, enjoyed) by heterosexuals as well as homosexuals down through history. Analism in the United States seems to be gaining in popularity among both gays and straights, and many straight couples have found in anal intercourse a sure way to avoid pregnancy. As sexual taboos fall (thanks to the increasing general availability of reliable sex information), more people are realizing that the anus is merely one of the body's erogenous zones.

But isn't the anus unclean?

There is no reason why it should be; the anus can be kept just as clean as any other part of the body and, as was mentioned in the section on foreplay earlier in this issue, a mutual bathing by sex partners before getting down to serious lovemaking can be both fun and sanitary.

Is analism the same thing as anal intercourse?

Analism includes anal intercourse, but it also refers to any activity in which the anus is the primary center of attention in erotic stimulation.

What is "analingus?"

Analingus is anal-oral contact, and is a practice which is perhaps more common among gays than straights. Many gays are excessively fascinated with analingus, a fact which psychiatrists believe stems from being emotionally fixated on this desire during the "anal stage" of childhood.

I've never heard the word "analingus" used in ordinary conversation—does it have another name?

In gay slang, yes; analingus is called "rimming." Someone with a special fondness for analingus, and who derives great pleasure from kissing or licking his partner's anus, (or having it done to him), is known as a "rim queen."

How could anyone even consider kissing or licking another guy's anus?

Not everyone can, of course; like any other sex act, analingus is a matter of personal preference and choice. However, an astonishing number of people are incapable of making a rational decision, so negatively has our society conditioned us against anything associated with the anus.

Is analingus performed by one partner at a time, or can it be a joint venture?

It can be done either way, depending on the couple involved. If mutual analingus is desired,

Psychological factors are extremely important in any gay relationship—the desire to dominate or be dominated among them.

it is accomplished from the basic "69" position, though some find it a bit awkward since some stretching is involved. Others prefer a one-at-a-time situation, feeling it gives both partners a chance to concentrate on being either the active or the passive partner.

I don't enjoy any type of anal sex, particularly —should I?

Whether or not you like analism is completely up to you, the important thing is that it is **your choice**, and not an automatic, built-in neg-

While most gays are versatile in their sexual activities, many prefer either the active or passive role in anal sex.

ative reaction based totally on emotion. (This is in no way intended to be an advocation of analism—simply an effort to stress the value of making decisions on logic rather than emotion.)

Fortunately, Nature provided Man with sufficient alternatives in sexual behavior so that the exclusion of analism needn't inhibit an active and satisfying sex life.

Why do some gay guys get so uptight at the very suggestion of anal sex?

Our sexually restrictive society has burdened each of its male children with a totally erroneous concept of what constitutes "manliness," and this concept is no less strong among gays than straights. To many men, the anus is associated with the vagina; to have another man penetrate one's anus is, therefore, the equivalent of being a woman—and few straight myths about gays are more completely wrong than the idea that all homosexual males secretly want to be women.

As for having any active contact with another man's anus, the anus/vagina association is also strongly responsible for the typical negative gay response: "If I wanted a woman, I'd go get a woman."

How many gays engage in anal intercourse?

That would be a difficult thing to say, since so few statistics are available on gay sexual behavior. However, an article in the September, 1970, issue of **Sexology** estimated that some 20 percent of all male homosexuals engage in anal intercourse, though not necessarily on a regular basis.

Is gay anal intercourse basically the same as straight vaginal intercourse?

Emotionally, it may serve the same purpose, but physically it is quite different. The anus, for example, cannot stretch like the vagina; it produces no lubrication, and first penile insertion, even with lubrication, can be rather painful until the muscles grow accustomed to the stretching. The passive partner generally needs a lot of practice before he can relax his anal sphincter to permit passage of his partner's penis. Also, the penis must be liberally lubricated before insertion if discomfort is to be minimized.

What sort of lubrication should be used?

There are any number of gels and creams which may serve the purpose; some hand creams can be used, but others may tend to

questionnaire

QUEST, the Question-and-Answer Magazine for Male Homosexuals, is the first magazine of its kind to serve the male gay community. To help us do a better job of providing the kind of information you wish to see in future issues, the following questionnaire has been devised.

In addition to influencing our future editorial course, the questionnaire will, when all replies are compiled, provide a unique statistical picture of male gays today. If you wish to remain anonymous, you are invited to do so; under no circumstances would your name be used without your permission.

Your assistance is earnestly sought, and sincerely appreciated.

FOR ALL READERS

Sex: ____Male ____Female

Age: ____21-29 ____30-35 ____36-40 ____41-45 ____46-50 ____Over 50

Marital Status: ____Single ____Married ____Divorced

Years of schooling: ____Under 8 ____8-12 ____13-16 ____Advanced degree

Sexual Orientation: ____Exclusively homosexual ____Exclusively heterosexual
____Some experience in both areas, but primarily homosexual
____Some experience in both areas, but primarily heterosexual

At what age did your first sex experience with another person occur? ____Years old

Was this experience ____Homosexual or ____Heterosexual?

Which of the following sex activities have you engaged in, or might you consider at some future time?

____Interracial sex ____Group sex ____Anal intercourse ____*Oral-genital sex*

How do you rate your current sex life? ____Excellent ____Good ____Fair ____Poor

Has QUEST in any way changed your attitude toward homosexuality? ____Yes ____No

*If "Yes," please explain in what way:*_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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_____

How would you rate this issue? ____Excellent ____Good ____ Fair ____Poor

*Which section did you find most interesting?*_____

Do you actively favor the liberalization of our sex laws? ____Yes ____No

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(This section may be detached and mailed separately)

If you would like to receive, from us, information regarding other sexually oriented material, please complete the information below.

Name_____ Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Please mail questionnaire to: Academy Press, 7616 Lindley Ave., Suite 9, Reseda, Calif. 91335

see other side

questionnaire

FOR HOMOSEXUAL READERS ONLY

At what age did you come out? _____Years

Is your family aware of your homosexuality? _____Yes_____No

If "Yes," how do they accept it? _____Completely_____With reservation _____ Some rejection_____Total rejection

How would you describe yourself? _____Butch _____Fem _____Neither

Are you currently involved in a gay relationship? _____Yes _____No

If "Yes," how long has this relationship lasted? _____Years _____Months

If "No," would you like to have such a relationship? _____Yes _____No

What is the longest gay relationship you have ever had with one individual? _____Years _____Months

Should gay unions be legally recognized? _____Yes _____No

Have you ever been (or are you now) engaged in a heterosexual marriage? _____Yes _____No

If "Yes," have you any children? _____Yes _____No

Are you a member of any gay organization? _____Yes _____No

Have you personally ever been involved in police entrapment? _____Yes _____No

Have you personally ever been the victim of legal or social discrimination because of homosexuality? _____Yes _____No

If "Yes," we would appreciate hearing, on a separate sheet of paper, more of the details as to the type of discrimination, the conditions under which the discrimination arose, and the outcome.

What, in your opinion, is the largest single problem facing gays today? _____

If you have any specific questions on male homosexuality you would like to see answered in a future issue of QUEST, please list them here. _____

Any comments you may have on the points raised in this questionnaire, or on any matter you feel may help to make QUEST a better magazine for YOU will be most welcome.

_____

burn. Certain gels specifically made for lubrication can be found at any drugstore. For many, the type of lubrication used is a matter of individual preference, like cigarettes or chewing gum.

If I enjoy being the passive partner in anal intercourse, does that make me a fem?

While a great many fems do enjoy taking the passive role in anal intercourse, the pleasure one takes from either the dominant or passive position does not automatically imply either masculinity or femininity. Being fem is far more an overall state of mind than the position one takes in bed. In fact, many gay couples strongly feel that alternating positions keeps their relationship from becoming too "butch-fem" oriented, enabling them to remain equals.

What pleasure does the passive partner get out of anal intercourse?

For the romatically inclined, the emotional satisfaction of being physically joined with a love partner means a great deal; a great many others simply enjoy the sensation of an object moving in and out of the rectum.

Some guys climax while they are the passive partner in anal intercourse, without any genital contact. How does this happen?

During anal intromission, a massaging action is applied to the prostate gland—a sensation almost all men find stimulating. Ejaculation is quite possible as a result of this massage, without any direct manipulation of the penis. Some, of course, are better able to do it than others.

What pleasure does the active partner get from all this?

Primarily, the sensation of friction against the penis, whether achieved through anal intercourse, fellatio, masturbation, or frottage (a rubbing together of two bodies), is almost invariably pleasurable. The emotional factors, again, are also extremely important. And, many psychologist agree, the physical act of

When neither partner in a gay relationship is afflicted by sex hangups, analism can be enjoyed without role playing.

sexual domination of another male can in itself be highly erotic to a surprising number of men.

Are there any disadvantages in anal intercourse?

Unfortunately, yes. The risk of infection is always present. Many gays suffer from urinary tract infections as a result of anal intromission (which, of course, holds true for heterosexuals performing anal intercourse as well). But the largest infection danger is in the possibility of contracting a venereal disease—a possibility which may be even higher among gays than straights.

Why should gays be in more danger from V.D. than straights?

Largely because gays are, on the whole, considerably more promiscuous than straights. Far fewer gays, proportionately, limit their sexual activity to just one person. And going to places like the baths, where the whole idea is promiscuity, is tantamount to asking for infection.

What other problems might result from anal intercourse?

It is possible to split or crack the anal canal and/or the mucus membrane of the passive partner. Such injuries may occur when the penis

Anal intercourse can be performed from any of a number of positions, each with its own advantages and disadvantages.

is disproportionately large and/or the anal canal small. Sometimes such damage can be avoided by the use of adequate lubrication. If such a split or crack occurs, it should be treated by a physician.

It is also possible that the penis may suffer superficial abrasions, or that previously existing conditions such as hemorrhoids, cryptitis, and fissure could be aggravated by anal sex.

What is the best way to avoid infection?

Physical cleanliness is always an important factor in health, but it won't always help should contact be made with someone already infected without knowing it. Any individual who leads an active sex life (and even those who are happily married and faithful to their lovers) would be wise to have a blood test periodically.

What are the basic positions for anal intercourse?

There are, of course, several: the "spoon" position (back-to-front, while both partners lie on their sides); one partner on his stomach—either lying down or raised up slightly on knees and elbows—while the other enters him from behind, as in a modified "spoon"; and face-to-face, either in the heterosexual missionary coital position (the passive partner on his back, legs raised, the active partner kneeling between them). Again, each couple generally finds the one best suited to their own needs and desires.

What is the best practical position?

This is up to the couple, again. The face-to-face position allows for a great deal of kissing and manual caressing, but limits action involving the passive partner's penis. The various "spoon" positions enable either the active or the passive partner to manipulate the passive partner's penis, but restricts mouth-to-mouth contact without considerable inconvenience.

Is there a "best way" to get started?

Many couples—especially if they are not yet used to working together as a team, find it more practical for the passive partner to handle the action until the penis is fully inserted (the reason being, obviously, so that he can minimize his own discomfort and make whatever adjustments are necessary); then the active partner can begin his motions.

But how can the anal sphincter possibly accommodate a penis obviously so much larger in diameter than itself?

Although incapable of being stretched to the limits the female vagina can reach, the anus can accommodate the penis without undue difficulty. First intromission can be as painful to the receiving partner as the rupture of the female hymen, or even more so.

The anal sphincter is capable of far greater contracting power than the vagina, however, and is normally in a contracted condition. It takes practice to sufficiently relax the anus to permit intromission.

How long should an anal intercourse session last?

That depends primarily on the staying power of the partners. Masters and Johnson discov-

Many gays prefer the standard "missionary" position for anal intercourse, since it allows a maximum of close body contact.

ered that the average male ejaculates within three to five minutes after intromission, and though they dealt with heterosexuals, there is no reason to suppose that gay reactions are any different. The session can be drawn out as long as the partners wish, simply by slowing down the action when climax approaches.

If the passive partner is fairly new to anal intercourse, however, he probably will tire fairly rapidly, and the active partner will do well to be considerate enough of his partner to take this into consideration.

Can a doctor tell if a guy is gay by inspecting the rectum?

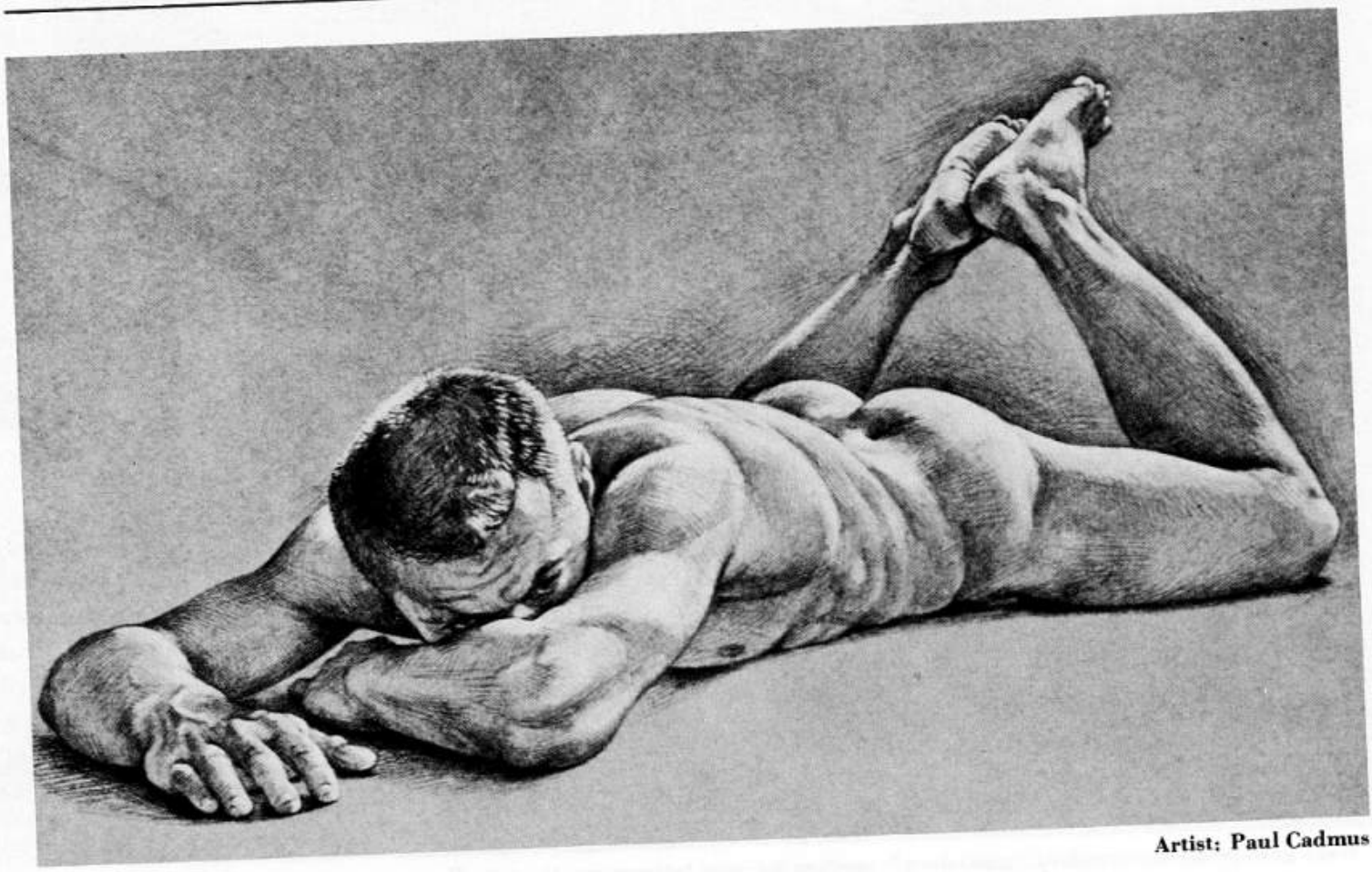
If you mean by that, can he tell if someone has been the passive partner in anal intercourse by inspecting the rectum, it is doubtful (unless the inspection were to occur immediately after an anal intercourse session). The obvious exception to this is, however, the presence of rectal V.D. The old I-got-it-from-a-toilet-seat story is not particularly one a doctor will believe.

Surely, anal intercourse isn't the only sex option open to a gay couple?

No, the body offers many other orifices which can be used for intercourse. Sometimes the penis can be stimulated to orgasm in the partner's tightly closed crotch, or by going through the coital motions while lying with both partners' penises pressed closely together. Imagination knows no real limits, and none (save safety) should be imposed.

THE BODY SELLERS

Step right up, gents—this way to the meat rack! Take a close look at these male beauties: they will tease you and please you! There's something here for every taste, and every pocketbook. You pays your money, and you takes your choice—and sometimes your chances.



Artist: Paul Cadmus

Just what is a "hustler"?

The word has many interesting derivations, perhaps until recent years the most popular of which related to someone who pretended ignorance of pool in order to con someone into playing a game with him for money. In sexual terms, however, the word **hustler** today applies largely to male prostitutes—particularly to those who sell their services to homosexuals.

What's the difference between a hustler and a gigolo?

A gigolo (the word is almost completely outdated) is, in Webster's quaint terms, "a man living on the earnings of a woman." Gigolos probably had their heyday in the 1920s, when they were something of a shockingly daring status symbol for wealthy women. They were, and their successors are, basically, male prostitutes also—but their clients were and are women, not men.

Are all hustlers gay?

Insofar as any sex act between two members of the same sex is legally considered a homosexual act, yes. However, a great number of hustlers are either basically bisexual or "primitive" (one who enjoys sex for its own sake, with no thought given to how it is achieved). And, of course, many hustlers are gay, either when they start or by the time they have been involved in the business of selling their bodies for any length of time.

Do most hustlers consider themselves to be gay?

No; perhaps the majority of hustlers consider themselves "straight." They sell their sexual services to men, they tell themselves, only for the money and frequently hold their clients in complete contempt. Sadly, this attitude is most often—and almost in direct ratio to the vehemence of their contempt—only a pathetic defense against facing their own homosexuality or strong latent tendencies.

Then some hustlers also enjoy heterosexual encounters?

Many do, either because they are actually bisexual or because they are desperately trying to prove to themselves, through sexual unions with women, that they are not **themselves** homosexual.

What sexual services do hustlers provide?

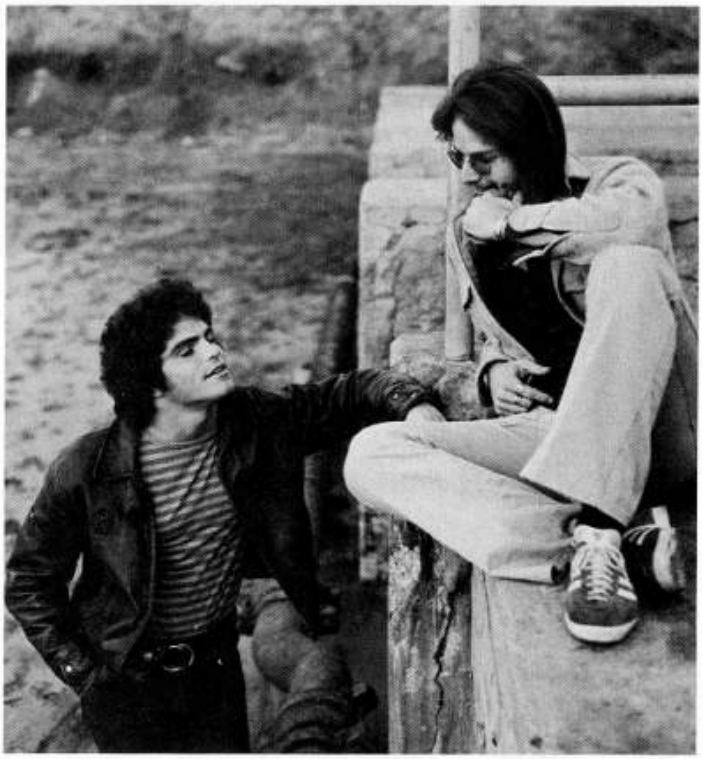
As with their female counterparts (and perhaps even more so), the services a hustler will provide vary considerably from individual to individual. Some—perhaps those with the strongest emotional problems—are only "trade"; they will allow their client to perform fellatio on them, or they will be the active partner in anal intercourse, but will do nothing to bring their clients (whom they call "johns" or "scores") to orgasm. Others are totally accommodating and will be either the active or passive partner—or both—depending on the john's wishes. They are perhaps the most in demand.

How much do hustlers charge?

Hustlers' fees will vary widely, depending on a number of factors—the part of the country in which they are working, their age, their attractiveness, their willingness to perform certain acts, the stiffness of the competition—even the time of day—plus whatever they think the traffic will bear.

Are there different classes of hustler?

Of course, just as there are different "classes" of female prostitutes. As Robert M.



Like their female counterparts, street hustlers are often quite open in their solicitation, thereby risking arrest.

Closet queens, unwilling or unable to come out, may turn to hustlers as their primary—or only—source of gay sex.

Some hustlers have one or two "special" johns who help them pay their rent, and with whom they have warm relationships.

Goldenson points out in his **Encyclopedia of Human Behavior,** "A social hierarchy also exists in male homosexual prostitution. 'Street hustlers' have the lowest status. They are usually teen-age boys who may in some cases be homosexuals themselves, but in other cases engage in homosexuality simply as a way of making money. . . . Next is the 'bar hustler' who finds his clients in bars frequented by homosexuals. Highest in prestige is the 'call boy,' who does not solicit in public." And, like female prostitutes, there are the part-timers as well as the professionals.

Are male whorehouses common?

One hears much about the existence of such places, particularly in the bigger cities, and such undoubtedly do exist. But trying to find someone who actually knows the whereabouts of a gay brothel is something else again. It is therefore probably safe to say that far fewer male whorehouses exist than are commonly thought to.

Can a man actually make a living as a male prostitute?

It isn't easy, but it can be done. Perhaps the largest percentage of hustlers are young and unsettled; they generally do not require much to live on. Many prefer hustling to getting a regular job. And some really enjoy their work. They build a clientele, just as female prostitutes do. They often have one or more "special" johns who pay, or help to pay, their rent. Their other scores provide the usual living expenses. Few hustlers, however, get rich.

Why would a man pick up a hustler?

For many reasons. Often, the john is an older gay who, having lost his youth and attractiveness in a painfully youth-and-attractiveness-oriented subculture, would have a hard time locating a voluntary sex partner. Some are closet queens who, for whatever reason, would never admit to being gay by going to a gay bar or restaurant—or even the baths. These men turn to

hustlers because it is the only way they can find sex without committing themselves. Many emotionally disturbed men, unable to openly face their homosexuality, seek out hustlers because (like many of their straight counterparts), by paying for sex, they can feel superior to the hustler and avoid any real personal involvement.

Are the hustler's clients often bisexuals?

Yes. Many bisexual men, particularly those married and with families, will engage hustlers as their only source of homosexual contact. They do not want to, or dare not, take advantage of the usual sources of available sex partners such as the bars.

Wouldn't it be dangerous for a man to pick up a hustler?

Tragically, violence is all too common—especially among men who prefer the very masculine, ultra-butch type hustler. (As mentioned earlier, hustlers who have severe mental conflicts about their latent homosexuality all too often will take their hostility out on their scores.) Murders of this type are all too frequent, and the killers are seldom caught. And, too, the police are often reluctant to follow up too closely on such a murder, feeling the victim "got what he deserved" for having been gay.

Where are hustlers found?

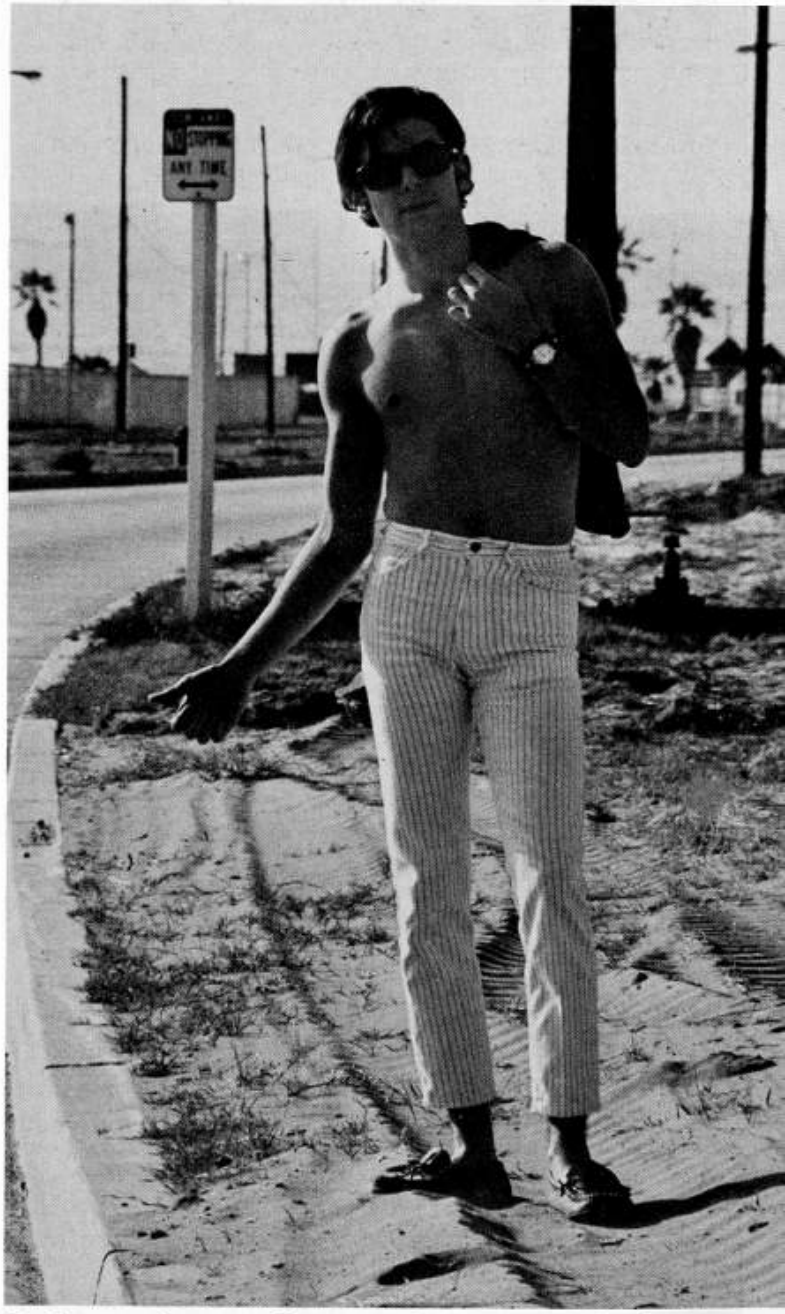
Almost every large city has specific areas where hustlers congregate—specific bars for the bar hustlers, certain streets for the street hustlers. Those blocks along which hustlers are most concentrated are referred to as "the meat rack."

Why would a man become a hustler?

The answer should be familiar to anyone who saw the movie **Midnight Cowboy**. The young are traditionally attracted to large cities, where their naivete tells them they will become rich and/or famous with very little effort. (New York and Hollywood are the two major targets for such men.) Often, they bring their wives and children. When their illusions are shattered by the harshness of reality and they find themselves unable to get a job, it doesn't take some long to recognize the alternatives offered by hustling.

Do these primarily straight hustlers always turn gay?

Not always, of course. Many "work" at hustling only to keep alive, and as soon as other opportunities present themselves, they return to their straight lifestyle. Those with wives seldom ever let it be known that they were hustlers.



Hustlers are often masculine-appearing young men who have found their bodies (and their sexual services) worth money.

GLOSSARY

ABERRANT: Deviating from currently accepted patterns of behavior; "unusual" sex practices. What is aberrant to the straight world may be normal in the gay community.

BUTCH: Masculine, or extremely masculine, depending on usage. Any gay who takes the dominant role in sex might be considered butch.

COMING OUT: Acknowledging one's homosexuality and actively entering the gay world.

DEVIATION: Noticeable or marked departure from accepted norms of behavior; a variation in standard sex practices. Homosexuality is a deviation in a predominantly heterosexual world; were gays in the majority, heterosexuality would be considered a deviation.

EFFEMINATE: Feminine in behavior. Effeminate male gays are also called "fem."

EROGENOUS ZONE: Any area of the body that is particularly sensitive to sexual stimulation.

FELLATIO: Oral stimulation (licking and/or sucking) of the penis. This can be continued until orgasm is reached and ejaculation occurs.

FETISH: An object or body part that arouses the sex drive, often to the exclusion of the more common methods of sexual stimulation.

GLANS: The head of the penis. The glans is covered at birth by the foreskin, which is removed when circumcision is performed.

JOHN: Hustler's term for a client. The word "score" is synonymous with "john."

MASOCHIST: One who derives pleasure from experiencing mental or physical pain.

MASTURBATION: Self-stimulation of the genitals, generally to orgasm.

ORGASM: The crest of physical sensation during sexual encounters, resulting in ejaculation of semen from the penis. Also known as "climax" or, in slang terms, "coming."

PEDERASTY: Anal-genital contact in which the penis is inserted into the anus. A now rather outdated word, **pederasty** originally referred specifically to anal-genital sex performed by an adult on a younger man or boy.

PENILE: Referring to the penis.

PIMP: One who seeks out clients for a prostitute; procurer.

PROMISCUOUS: Indiscriminate in sexual affairs; not restricted to one sex partner.

PROSTATE GLAND: A chestnut-shaped body, partly muscular and partly glandular, which surrounds the beginning of the male urethra. The prostate gland secretes a milky fluid which is discharged into the urethra at the time of orgasm, mixing with the semen. The prostate can be massaged with a finger inserted into the anus.

PROSTITUTE: One who engages in sexual activity for money; hustler.

SADIST: One who derives pleasure from inflicting physical or mental pain on the sex partner.

SCROTUM: The sac of skin in which the testicles are housed.

SEMEN: A viscid, whitish fluid ejaculated by the male during orgasm and containing spermatozoa (or "sperm") needed for human reproduction.

SPHINCTER: The anal sphincter is a ring-shaped muscle able to contract or close the lower opening of the digestive tract lying between the buttocks. The anal opening.

TACTILE: Referring to touch.

TRANSSEXUAL: An individual having the orientation and emotional makeup of the opposite sex, and undergoing the necessary surgical and physical change to actually become a member of that sex.

TRANSVESTITE: One who adopts the clothing, and sometimes the behavior, of the opposite sex. Transvestites, however, are not necessarlly homosexual.

Some hustlers are merely drifters who exchange their sexual services for a temporary relationship, food, and shelter.

What does a hustler look like? How does one spot them?

Most heterosexuals would be unable to spot any but the most obvious hustler, but it usually does not take gays long to recognize the signs —the way the guy stands, or walks, or looks at passing traffic. The masculinely dressed ones are perhaps a bit **too** masculine; the attractive young boys just a little **too** attractive.

Are most hustlers active or passive in their sex activity with a john?

Again, this would vary from individual to individual. Though no exact statistics are available, it is quite likely that the order of acts performed might run like this: 1) passive recipient of fellatio; 2) active partner in anal intercourse; 3) active partner in fellatio; and 4) recipient partner in anal intercourse.

What are some of the differences between male and female prostitutes?

Other than the obvious physical differences —in which the male prostitute may actually have certain advantages over his female counterpart, since he can perform all the basic services she can, plus having a penis himself— there are other minor differences. Male hustlers, for example, almost never have pimps to whom they must give part of their income. Being men, they have all the fringe benefits of freedom of action which women even today do not always have. And in the area of prostitute-client relationships, male hustlers almost never take the john to their own homes or apartments.

Where, then, do the sex acts usually take place?

Most frequently, the sex takes place in the john's auto or home. Just as there are "lovers' lanes" for heterosexual couples most male hustlers working big cities soon find out-of-the-way spots they can ply their trade without being disturbed. Many hustlers, of course, offer "modeling" or "massage" services either in the john's home or in a hotel or motel room arranged for —and paid for—by the john in advance.

Is there an age limit for male prostitutes?

While there is no mandatory retirement age, hustlers are dealing in a youth-oriented market. Being young and attractive are almost prere-

Primarily gay hustlers often enjoy total sexual participation with their scores; those who are basically straight don't.

quisites for success. As a result, most male prostitutes are out of the business by the time they are in their mid-thirties.

Is hustling a twentieth-century phenomenon?

Not at all; in Roman and Greek times, male homosexual prostitution was common. Throughout history, in fact, male prostitutes have been with us.

In Arno Karlen's **Sexuality and Homosexuality**, he notes: "Burnings for homosexuality were rare, but they occurred in France until a few years before the Revolution. Some of the prominent men arrested in the Paris homosexual-prostitution scandal of 1702 had been burned, and others cut their own throats to avoid punishment or disgrace. Gustavus II of Sweden was homosexual, but the Swedish penal code of 1734 prescribed as punishment for sodomy decapitation followed by exposure or burning of the body—worse than the sentences for murder, sorcery, and treason."

Many gays are hung up on ultra-macho types, and willingly pay for sex with men who fit their erotic fantasies.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
V.
RONALD A. STEWART.
CRIM. NO. 70-592.

United States District Court,
E.D. Pennsylvania.
Dec. 3, 1971.

OPINION AND ORDER

MASTERSON, District Judge

[1] Defendant is charged in a twelve count indictment with using the mails to send certain unsolicited "obscene, lewd, lascivious and filthy" commercial advertisements, in violation of 18 U.S.C./1461. Defendant has moved to dismiss the indictment on the ground that the materials referred to therein are not obscene, and that the application of the Postal Obscenity Law to the materials would be violative of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Counsel for the Government and the defendant have entered into a stipulation attaching two examples of the advertising brochures which are agreed to be representative of all the materials in this indictment. After carefully reviewing these materials, the authorities cited in defendant's briefs, and the prevailing law in the obscenity area, we have decided that the motion to dismiss must be granted.

I. THE MATERIALS INVOLVED

The first brochure, relating to Counts I-IV, is entitled, "NOW FINALLY SEX EDUCATION WITHOUT CENSORSHIP!" The first page does not include pictures (except of the books advertised). The bold type tells the reader that this is "The First Authoritative Series of Uncensored Sex Instruction & Sex Information Books Ever Published In America." The text goes on to note that due to recent Federal Court decisions, "we can at last offer to you, as an adult over the age of 21 years, these valuable educational books: Sex and Censorship do not mix! You can't make love with all your clothes on and neither can a book offer complete instruction and information by omitting or avoiding the proper photos or information! To do less would be to deny each individual the right to read, look, ponder, evaluate and reach his own conclusions on which path to follow to happiness. This is a right Americans have and are fighting and dying for! The right to read, learn and think is ours! Let those who wish to . . . exercise this right!!" The books are then described as "A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH IN SEX EDUCATION."

The remainder of this brochure contains descriptive text and small black and white photographs from books which are offered for sale. All these books purport to be educational in nature: *Sex In Marriage, Decision in Denmark, Oral Sex & The Law, The Ways Homosexuals Make Love, Sex Pornography & The Law* and *Sex Freedom.* Since the Government contends that the advertisements themselves are obscene, we assume this allegation stems from the illustrative photographs which show adults in various positions of sexual intercourse and other sexual activities. The accompanying text is totally descriptive of what the offered book contains and could not be said to be offensive in itself.

The second brochure, relating to the last six counts, advertises a magazine entitled *Sexual Freedom.* It is different from the first only in that its photographs are in color, and pictures of a baby being born and various diagrams of sexual organs are included.

Since the indictment charges that the advertisements, in addition to being obscene in themselves, give information as to where obscene materials may be obtained, we have asked to examine the underlying publications which are offered for sale. The Government has supplied us with Volume Two of *Sex In Marriage,* agreed to be representative of the books offered for sale in the first brochure, and *Sexual Freedom,* the magazine offered in the second. *Sex in Marriage,* written by Wendell M. Koble, M.D., is a paperbound book. Its 179 pages are mostly textual, with black and white and color photographs of a man and a woman in various positions of sexual intercourse, numbered and carefully tied in with the text. The book is complete with anatomical diagrams, a glossary, a bibliography and an index.

Sexual Freedom is a book based on the motion picture "Sexual Freedom In Denmark." Accompanying its graphic photographs of sexual activity are biblical passages, a "Credo," a legal discussion of obscenity, a segment of ancient Japanese drawings, and discussions of sex education, overpopulation, birth control, venereal disease, frigidity and the future of sex, all with photographic illustrations.

It has also been stipulated that each advertising brochure was contained in a sealed inner mailing envelope which bore the following warning notice on each side:

"NOTICE — READ BEFORE OPENING

This envelope contains unsolicited sexually oriented, illustrated literature and brochures. The enclosed brochures may photographically or pictorially illustrate pictures of nude women and/or nude men together or separately in erotic situations, sexual embrace or intercourse and may include pertinent text.

IF YOU ARE NOT OVER THE AGE 21 AND/OR NOT INTERESTED IN SEEING OUR BROCHURES AND PURCHASING THIS MATERIAL, THEN:

"PLEASE DISPOSE OF THIS ENVELOPE WITHOUT OPENING!!

It is not our intention to disturb, annoy or offend any person not interested in our literature. If you wish your name removed from our mailing list, please return to us the coded mailing label that bears your name and address. If you receive another mailing from us; after requesting the removal of your name, this would be only because your name appears on a list we rented from another firm and we were unable to delete your name from this list."

II. DISCUSSION

[2] We need not decide whether defendant is correct that these advertisements can be held to be obscene *per se* only if the books themselves are held to be obscene. We hold as a matter of law that neither the advertisements nor the books which have been stipulated to as being representative of the materials

Editorial

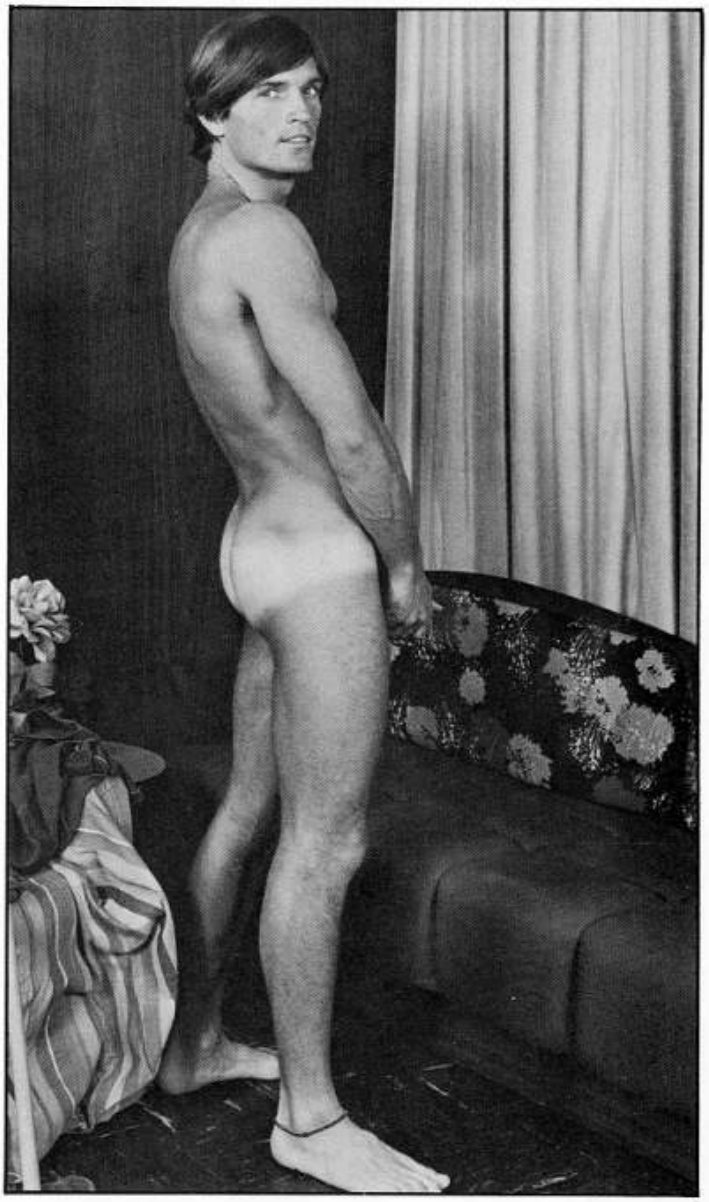
When is a homosexual? At what point in time can it be said: "This young man is gay"? And by whom does it have to be acknowledged before it can be considered "official"? Gays, after all, do not suddenly rise full-grown from the sea. Very often, of course, the individual in question has said it to himself (though he may have been either too young or too isolated from the gay community to even know what "gay" meant) long before anyone else acknowledges the fact. And also very often, the fact of his being homosexual is *never* acknowledged by close friends and relatives, in a pathetically silly game of "if-nobody-mentions-it-it-doesn't-exist."

And what does all this do to the homosexual himself? Knowing he is different from those around him, he has many questions about his homosexuality—about its validity as a lifestyle; about expressing his sexuality in the context of being gay. Where can he turn for this information? Sex education class in high school? It may provide some interesting facts, but its application to *him* is limited, at best. His parents or close heterosexual friends? He's often terrified of their "finding out" because he's afraid they won't love him if they discover he's one of those "fairies" everyone sniggers about.

The hard, cold fact is that in addition to every other problem and prejudice every gay encounters, he is under the serious disadvantage of having no ready access to information which can help him adjust in a mature manner to his lifestyle.

ECCE HOMO is, to the best of our knowledge, the *only* magazine available to male homosexuals who want to know more about the sexual side of being gay—the *only* source of sound, positive, easy-to-read material based upon current research into the subject of homosexuality.

To deny that homosexuality exists is idiotic; to assume that within every homosexual is a heterosexual screaming to be "helped" is naive; to deliberately deny homosexuals the chance to develop as emotionally mature, responsible, and happy individuals is mindlessly vindictive and cruel.



ECCE HOMO seeks to bridge the gulf of ignorance between the individual homosexual and the understanding of his own sexuality. It is a task for which ECCE HOMO was designed, and to which it is totally dedicated. ●●●

Taking the time to try out new positions for fellatio can help to make sex more of a game than a race to orgasm.

KEEP IT GAY

BY FRANK WILLIAMSON, M.A.

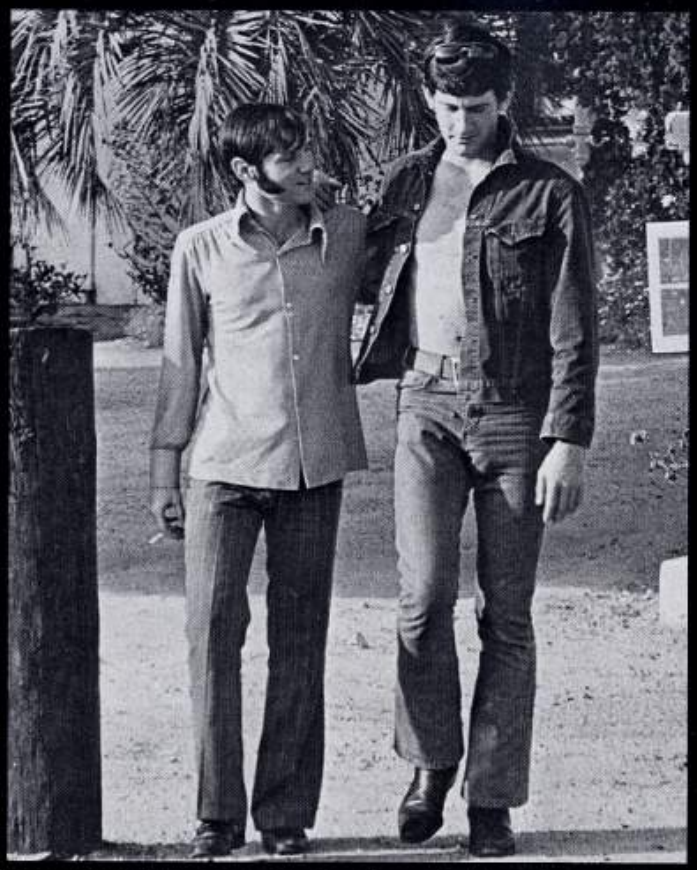
IF YOU'VE BEEN TAKING YOUR SEX LIFE A LITTLE TOO SERIOUSLY, LATELY, IT'S TIME YOU STARTED REMEMBERING THAT IT SHOULD ALSO BE FUN.

What makes some sex encounters better than others—more fun? How are some enhanced and enriched? Why are some guys more desirable as partners—even if it's a one-time-only affair—than others? What makes one evening with a certain person more memorable than literally hundreds of other nights with almost as many other guys?

There are no stock answers, of course. Sex is too personal a business and preferences vary too widely. Every gay has to look at—and into—the question from his own point of view. But while no one set of rules exists, there are broad guidelines for keeping sex gay in every sense of the word.

Let's assume, for example, that you're unattached but, like so many gays, you dislike the basic idea of tricking and one-night-stands on principle. But it's Saturday night and you feel like going out. You go to your favorite bar, talk to friends, and see someone interesting across the room. You smile, cruise, approach, talk, maybe dance (if the place has a license) and eventually leave the bar together for "coffee" at your place. So far, it's been a standard gay courting ritual—one which, however often repeated, tends to hold a strange fascination and excitement for perhaps the majority of gays.

At this particular point, you may feel hesitant about thinking of the guy you're with as a "trick"—that seems like a cold, impersonal word that is best



Every first-time encounter has elements of mystery and promise that make it exciting and challenging to most gays.

It's *after* the orgasms that gays have an opportunity to get to know each other and share a sense of belonging.

reserved for those anonymous guys who enter everyone's life for a few erotic moments and then disappear, as much a stranger at the end of the sexual encounter as they were at the beginning. No, especially if you like this guy you're with, the tendency is not to think of him as a trick because maybe—just maybe—he'll turn out to be a lot more.

Although it's clearly understood that mutual physical attraction is a large part of what draws any two gays together for sex, most gays generally prefer their encounters (other than at a bath, or during an orgy) to be something more than a slam-bam-thank-you-man affair. What happens from this point on, as you open your front door, can make the difference between just sex and an experience to remember.

If you're wise, and of an optimistic nature, you made some basic preparations for company before you even left the house. There's a night-light in the bedroom, the place doesn't look like the Army of Nothern Virginia camped out there, the lights in the living room are on, low. If you've got a stereo, you've put out some good records for quick access, or the radio is pre-tuned to a station you want to accompany the mood. If there's a fireplace, it's ready for lighting. Walking into what already is—or can be made in a matter of seconds—a warm, relaxed, mellow atmosphere puts you several steps ahead.

A preliminary period of private and personal contact, out of the distracting bar setting, is the real beginning of any encounter that hopes to go beyond just bedroom calesthenics. It's a time for each partner to subtly reassure the other that he's interested in something other than just a warm body. It's a good time to talk, over coffee, a drink, or a liqueur, of many subjects *other* than sex—you'll get to that soon enough. It's a way of verbally feeling each other out. Keep the conversation relaxed—away from any impression that you're

Every sex encounter should be enjoyed fully in and for itself, unburdened by impractical hopes or unspoken demands.

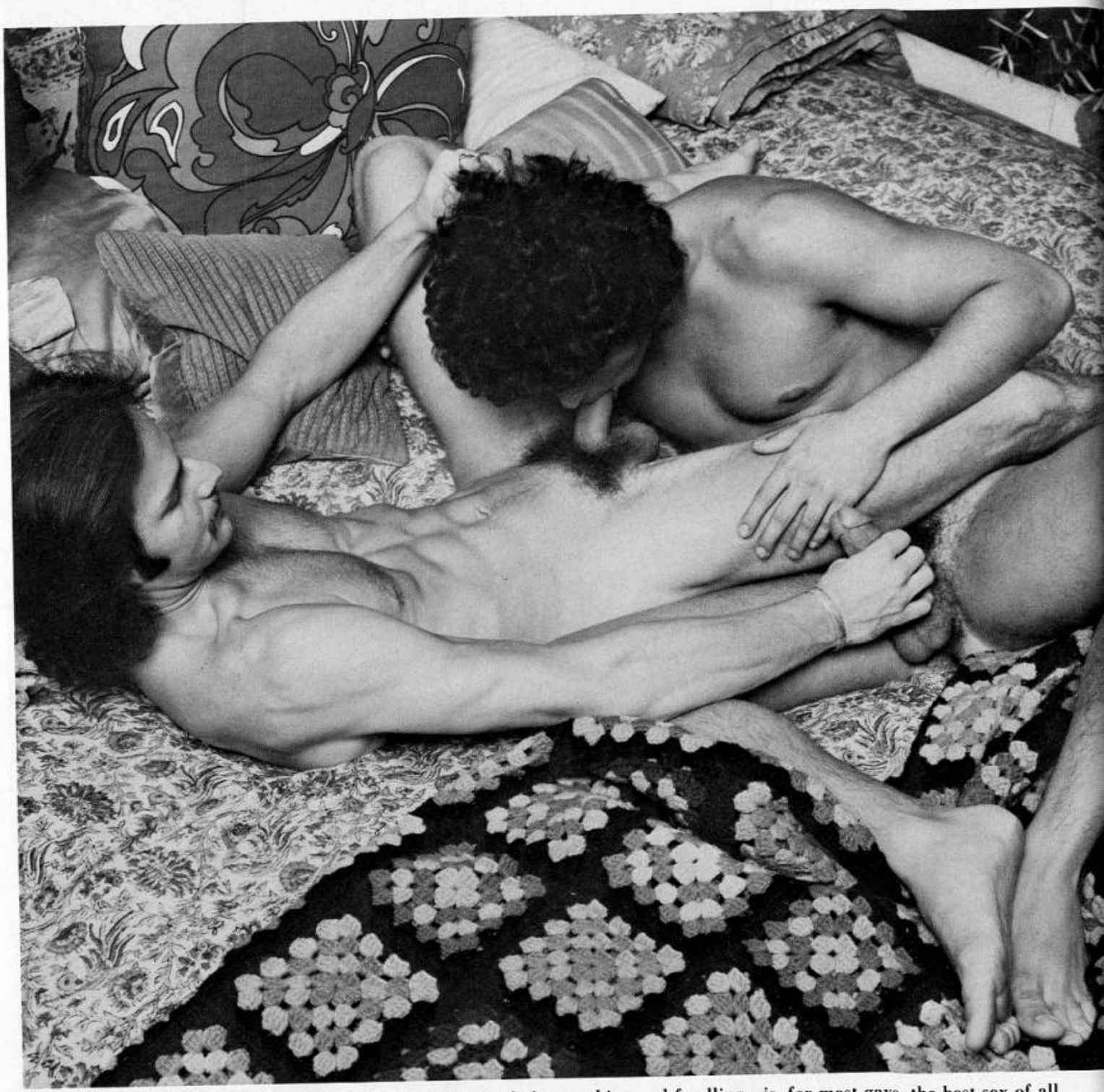
There are times, of course, when sex will be fast and frantic—when good, old-fashioned lust takes over completely.

laying all your cards on the table, or from assumptions that the relationship is already more than it actually is. The key word here is "relaxed."

This doesn't mean, of course, that just by following these guidelines, orange blossoms are automatically in the air. But in order for any potential the relationship may have to be fully developed, the attraction must go beyond the physical. Listen to what he says, and how he says it. If you like what you learn about him—and vice versa—it makes the desire for intimate contact more intense. This build-up can't be achieved if you bolt for the bedroom the minute the front door closes behind you. Take your time. Work up to it gradually. Touch. Kiss. Hold each other. And when your mutual desire becomes too intense, go to bed and make love. (You don't even have to go into the bedroom, of course—sex on the living room floor in front of the fire can be a memorable experience in itself.)

It's important that, although the hour may be late, you don't rush the act of love as though it were a set of sexual exercises before bedtime, similar to push-ups or deep knee bends. Let the sex build, too.

Don't be afraid of affection—and don't forget



Sex that is more than just a drive for orgasm—that includes touching and fondling—is, for most gays, the best sex of all.

that there's a whole body there, not just a set of genitals. Really good sex is a feast, not a trip to McDonald's.

Several years ago, there was a musical called *House of Flowers,* which included a set of lyrics you might keep in mind:

"Who needs a friend with a hasty heart,
Who's only pleased with the tasty part;
Enjoys the cherry without the stone,
Loves to love, then leaves you alone?
In my mind, there's nothin' worse'n
That primitive, insensitive kind of person!"

Sexual activity is best when it's reciprocal. One-way traffic is fine on the street, but not in the bedroom. If you're not overly turned on by a tongue-bath, but your partner wants to give you one, let him. And don't just *let* him—try to relax and concentrate on the sensations he's creating. (Men in our society are subtly trained to *not* respond to gentle erotic stimulation of any part of the body except the genitals. It may take some time to break this negative conditioning, but gays who have done it report that there's a whole world of subtle erotic sensations they'd never experienced before.)

Obviously, if he likes giving a tongue bath, he'll also enjoy *getting* one. So put yourself out a little, if you have to, and return the favor—but try your very best not to make it *seem* like you're just doing your

duty. Use the experience to expand your own sensations, and your awareness of your partner's body. We all know the male body is a turn-on, but few of us take the time to get to know *all* of it. Every guy's body is different—an uncharted territory of potential pleasure. Get to know it. Relax. Enjoy.

At its best, sex is a total immersion of the self into pure, physical sensation. It can also be tremendously rewarding, emotionally, when you learn to turn the entire world off and just submerge yourself into the moment. Good sex *is* love. It's a peak of intimacy, of sharing, of belonging, not that often experienced in life. Even if your partner is someone you may never see again, it shouldn't matter. The emphaisis is on *now*.

Though you may not know, when you get home, just where the sexual part of the evening is going to take place, it's fairly safe to assume it will probably be in the bedroom. And, here again, advance planning is called for. How about having the bed neatly made but turned down? Maybe a candle or kerosene lamp nearby, ready for lighting? And, if you're into anal intercourse, a towel and lubricant out of sight but within arm's reach?

Tune your mental radar to your partner's wavelength. Listen and look for clues, and follow up on them. Likewise, don't be hesitant about sending out subtle clues of your own. Every encounter is different, and it can be a lot more fun for both partners if you each treat it as a fascinating and enjoyable

Good sex *is* love. It's a peak of intimacy, of sharing, of belonging, all too seldom experienced in "real life."

game. If he likes to verbalize his pleasure, verbalize yours. If *you* like to verbalize during sex, try it and see how he responds. (Some gays find explicit talk during sex to be a real turn-on; others find it disconcerting.)

There are times, of course, when sex will be fast and frantic—when good old-fashioned lust takes over completely. There's nothing at all wrong with this, if it's mutual. But remember that to get right down to the nitty-gritty when either or both of you would just as soon take your time is to cheat yourself out of a lot of pleasure.

One of the most neglected aspects of gay sex is what happens *after* the climax. Too often, guys are used to either just rolling over and going to sleep, or to getting up, getting dressed, and going home. But this post-ejaculation period can be one of the most satisfying and rewarding parts of the entire encounter. It's now, after the gonads have had their way, that you can *really* relax, bask in the afterglow, and share a form of pure, unadulterated closeness and affection not possible before. It's in this period that the spark of future potential for a relationship—if there is any chance of one—will most likely show itself. And even if it doesn't, it still

Anal intercourse can be either a means to sexual pleasure, or a way to share love—depending on the partners' feelings.

There's a fine line between wearing your heart on your sleeve and being afraid to show emotion when you feel it.

Mutually attracted gays usually get right to sex—but often with the secret hope something more might develop from it.

allows a little extra time of feeling and being together.

Each sex encounter should be enjoyed fully in and for itself. Don't go into it burdening it down with impractical hopes or unspoken demands. It's not easy to walk the line between wearing your heart on your sleeve and being afraid to show emotion when you feel it. But when you are in bed and there is, for all practical purposes, no one in the world but the two of you, don't be afraid to let go, to plunge as deeply into romanticism as your partner cares to go.

Tomorrow is an unknown. All you have is today, to do with as best you can. Keep it gay. ●●●

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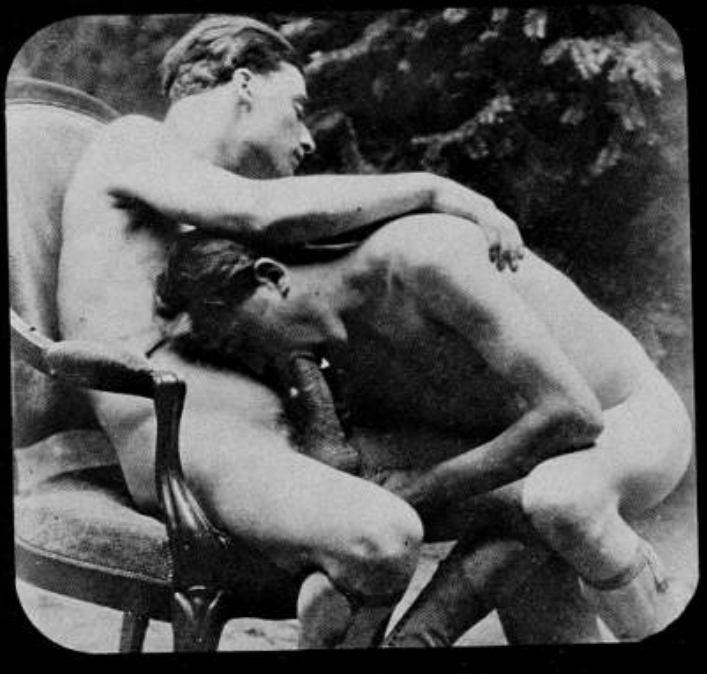
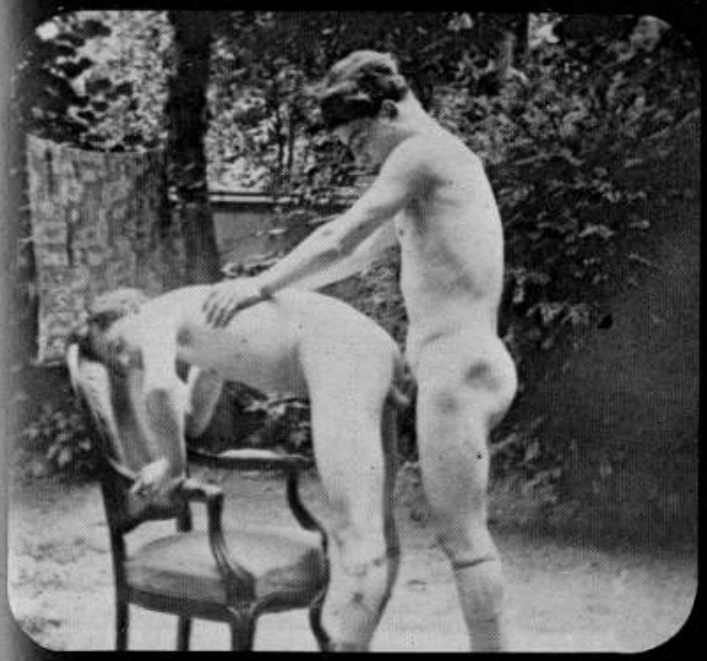
THE GAY OLD DAYS

Grandpa may not have been gay, but chances are he had a brother, cousin, or friend who was. Being gay isn't a new phenomenon, as these turn-of-the-century snapshots prove. They also show that not all that much has changed over the years—except that most gays today prefer taking their shoes and socks off for sex.





Today's Trade....

by Robert Chappelle

We've all heard the old saw—but a lot of guys out there honestly think that the only way they can come out of their closet is to pretend they never left.

Because they are often unable to admit their desires even to themselves, many men who seek out gay sex protect their illusions of being "straight" by not reciprocating.

"Hey, look, man!" Danny exploded, forcefully nudging his bedmate away from him. "Just because I let you suck my cock don't make me no queer! You better keep your mouth down there where it belongs, or you're gonna get some fist in it!"

Tom, the young gay who'd invited Danny to his place and into the bed, realized he'd made a tactical mistake. "Sorry, buddy," he said softly, lowering his head to resume the tongue-bathing he was giving his good-looking, even younger piece of trade. "I got carried away there for a minute."

"You knew what I came up here for," Danny reminded him unnecessarily. "I had my pick of guys to go with tonight. You're lucky you got me. But just 'cause I like you, that don't mean I'm gonna let you *kiss* me!"

Tom's experienced mouth went back to Danny's crotch, where its attentions were eagerly welcomed. He knew from dozens, possibly hundreds, of similar situations that Danny's threat of "some fist" in his mouth was rhetorical. At worst, the trick would thrust Tom aside altogether, get dressed and coldly take his leave. Back to the bar where they'd met, no doubt. This time Danny would be explicit as to exactly what he'd tolerate in an overnight date with a "queer."

Tom, too, had the option of calling it off then and there. But he was content, under the circumstances, to satisfy himself with one-way service of Danny's sexual demands. The boy was attractive, and responsive enough, in his way. Danny's hands, grasping at his fellator's head and forcefully guiding its urgent, deep-swallowing movements, were revealing evidence of the trick's willing participation in the sex act he craved and pretended to despise at the same time.

As presumed instigator and, certainly, host of the party, Tom had a commitment to go through with it on his trick's terms. Hell, why not? Danny was good trade—safe, clean, and open enough about admitting he genuinely enjoyed the sex.

And if later, when the trade was thoroughly drained and satiated, Tom should discreetly masturbate against his inviting thigh, Danny would be either asleep and unaware—or he'd accept the nasty contact silently, passing it off as one of the hazards of having to depend on young faggots to get your rocks off for you.

The two woke in the morning for a perfunctory repetition of the night's action. "Blow me," Danny

There are a great many gays who derive intense sexual excitement from "going down on" a supposedly straight male.

demanded of his bedmate. Tom did, whether or not he was sexually stirred to perform his oral function again. They both understood that it was important to Danny to affirm, in the clear light of day, that he was completely the masculine, passive partner in the brief relationship. With his masculinity confirmed, and yet another first-rate blowjob to his credit, Danny could leave Tom's bed, perhaps with a vague promise of getting together again. "You suck good cock, man," he smiled. "I always like to have a few of you guys in my address book."

Imperfect as their brief relationship had been, Tom felt a surge of excitement and gratification at his trick's hint of more sex dates to come. It hadn't been all as one-way as Danny wanted to think, Tom mused. There'd been a moment there, when their sex-flushed faces had touched, that the gay guy was certain of a subtle, electric current of mutual desire passing between them. Instinctively, thoughtlessly, Tom's mouth had moved to meet Danny's. Only at the instant of their lips touching did the trick break the embrace in an automatic re-

Gays who enjoy sex with trade often hope they'll be the one to "bring him out" into the open acceptance of being gay.

jection triggered by violent emotion. *You're gonna get some fist in it!*

One of these times, Tom figures, Danny won't bother fighting it. He'll accept a deep kiss on the mouth, maybe even return it. "Lots of guys kiss," Danny will reason. "That don't make them queer!"

Danny is, of course, a practicing homosexual. If—as is often the case—he took the initiative in letting Tom know he was sexually available, and that he preferred Tom to other potential sex partners he could have had, Danny could well be a more active and experienced homosexual than Tom is. However, for reasons he may not even understand himself, Danny must persist in telling himself (and his gay sex contacts) that he is "straight." He plays only the masculine role in sex, preferring to lie back in bed, allowing another male to fellate him "because men are better cocksuckers than broads are," or perhaps because "it's less of a hassle going with a queer. They're easy to get, and they don't expect anything from you except your load." Sometimes he'll perform the masculine part in anal intercourse, too, telling himself that "a hole is a hole," and that some holes are tighter than others, thus more gratifying to conquer.

His self-deception will very probably continue, for as long as he can sustain it, even though Danny relies entirely on homosexuals for his sexual outlet. If he remains long in the same community, making his contacts within the same circles, he will sooner or later gain the reputation of being "gay trade" or, if he clearly prefers the anal route, an "asshole jock." In short, Danny is accepted as a homosexual by every homosexual he knows—except himself.

Tom's hope, meanwhile, is that a certain guy (hopefully himself), under just the right circum-

stances, will cause Danny not only to return the kiss, but to take the situation forward to its logical culmination.

There are a number of reasons to believe that Tom's hope is by no means improbable. For one thing, Danny is selective about his sex partners. "I don't let just anybody fool around with my body," the trade is careful to point out. He responds as strongly to a sex partner's youth and natural good looks as the partner does to *his*. Furthermore, Danny is not a hustler. Oh, he'll take money if it's offered. "If it'll make you feel any better about it," Danny will graciously assent, sensing that often his homosexual friend is burdened with misigvings of his own about the relationship. By making it clear that he's no whore, Danny has inadvertantly cut himself off from the alibi that he goes with gays only because he needs the money. Pinned down then to explain exactly why he goes with gays, Danny will probably rely on a standard evasion, intended actually to block the nagging question out of his own consciousness.

"You're a nice guy," he might say, "and I was feeling generous. I know how much you need a stiff prick." Or, coolly: "We both got what we wanted out of it, didn't we? Isn't that enough?"

Still, Tom, who has caught the undercurrents of Danny's response and has understandable reasons for wanting to pursue the acquaintance, remembers little things, telltale things that happened between them. The way Danny stroked his fellator's hair during the height of the sex act . . . a few involuntary words of endearment Danny choked out in the throes of orgasm . . . .

Danny may or may not cross the line of deep, ingrained social taboo that separates him from the full physical and emotional expression which Tom believes (and with good reason) is natural to Danny's so-far repressed sexuality. Until that time comes—in Tom's arms or those of an equally sympathetic and honest partner—Danny stands as a too-typical example of what famed psychotherapist C. A. Tripp, in his recent *The Homosexual Matrix,* terms "denial by means of the gender-role umbrella." In Tripp's definition, a "denial-umbrella" is a means by which "people can practice homosexuality without having to admit to themselves or to others that they are homosexual—though they may be exclusively so."

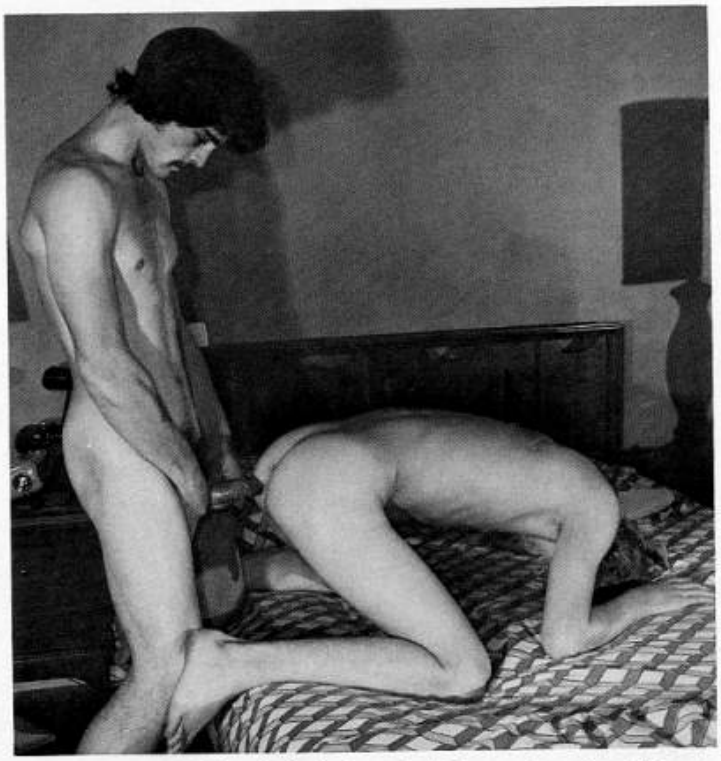
Of these men, Tripp writes: "They preserve their male image by being the dominant partner in intercourse, or by lying back to be fellated. That both acts are highly phallic, that neither is receptive (in the sense of being penetrated), and that both could occur with a heterosexual partner all support the rationalization that what they are doing is 'not really homosexual.' . . . It is interesting that many law-enforcement officers and judges accept the whole rationalization, arresting and sentencing only the receptive partner, who may have been the least aroused and the least responsible for having arranged the contact.

"The odd notion that same-sex contacts are homosexual only for the partner whose gender-role is inverted (that is, the one who brings the other to climax) has a long tradition. The idea is reflected in the popular notion that effeminate persons are homosexual, that homosexuals are effiminate, and that lesbians are tough and somewhat 'phallic,' if not Amazons.

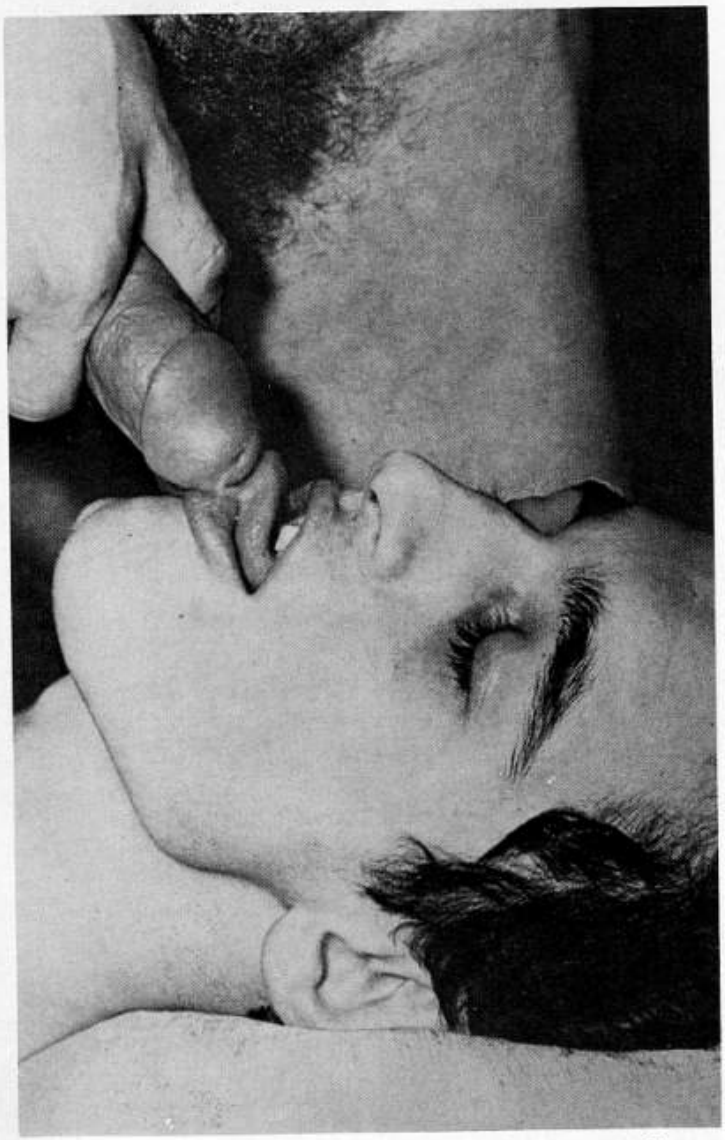
". . . It is astonishing that so many observers have been taken in by these posturings, and are willing to believe that male homosexuality requires inversion, that it applies only to the submissive partner. The fact, of course, is that sexual contacts between males are patently homosexual for both partners. Both are usually extensively motivated, too (nobody responds easily to a partner who is seen as sexually meaningless)."

Tripp, whose central thesis is that homosex-

Despite what the trade may think, the fact is that sexual contact between males is patently homosexual for both.



Telling himself that "a hole is a hole" may be a trade's way of justifying the pleasure he gets in anal intercourse.



There are a lot of gays who, because of their own problems, take great pleasure in being sexually "dominated" by trade.

uality is a natural and emotionally rewarding form of sexual expression, as well as a universal one, further categorizes "denial-umbrellas" as various rationalizations whereby homosexual behavior is "okay" in the homosexual's own eyes under certain circumstances where the participant can deny (to himself, at least) what he is really up to.

In the "personal-innocence umbrella," a sexually ambiguous male accepts gay relationships, even those in which he plays the "female" role, only if they are instigated by the partner, someone dominant enough to sweep him up in the current of desire so intensely that the "reluctant" performer can say afterward, in effect, "He caught me in an unguarded moment. I was doing it for him before I even knew what was going on."

Sometimes these men become expert at seducing others into making advances, Tripp points out. Or they may have the sort of personality which conveys an easy approachability, resulting in the homosexual advances they crave. "The underlying assumption," Tripp writes, "seems to be that to overtly move toward a partner is the essence of commitment and desire, while to react to a sexual opportunity is 'only natural,' expecially if one is caught up in another person's desire.

"The excuse for a homosexual contact often is that one was drunk or asleep at the time," Tripp discovered. Is there a gay around who doesn't know this scene by heart? "I was so drunk last night, I don't know what happened." The implication being that you'd better not tell him; the subject is closed. (Kinsey, as far back as 1948, noted the prevalence of this same evasion, which he summed up in the words of a serviceman: "It was in the dark, and I didn't know the difference.")

Then there's the "only-for-now-umbrella." Many people rationalize homosexual activity by conceiving of it as merely temporary, a holdover from what they did when they were younger, or as a pleasurable activity that happens to be available now but which will lose its appeal when they settle down into heterosexual stability or simply "grow out of it."

It is frequently known that the "romantic roommate" relationships among college students, many of whom have never been alone with anybody in long, undisturbed privacy before, will progress to the level of genuine passion and jealousy when the "roomie" lets his erotic attention turn elsewhere. "We had sex with each other because we were horny guys, and there was nobody else." Yes, but it was lovely while it lasted, wasn't it?

Tripp concludes his "denial system" list with the "special-friendship umbrella," in which there is no longer any evasion about the all-out homosexulaity of the friendship—but only between the two.

Tripp reports: "Such special, often highly

Having a gay "blow" him is important to a trade who needs constant reassurance that he is the dominant partner.

romanticized relationships gain their credence not only from the emotional intensity that may be present, but from the feeling that no other person of the same sex could possibly 'turn them on' in this way. As in all romantic situations, the purely sexual elements may be utterly eclipsed by what is felt as an abounding affection. When such a relationship, including the sex that goes with it, is the first of its kind for a person, it may very easily seem unique and simply not to be recognized as a classical homosexual experience.

"Similarly, many young people who have an intense first homosexual experience may still not realize that it indicates anything about themselves. They conceive of homosexuality, if they think of it at all, as something utterly alien done by strange or ef-

feminate people, certainly nothing that causes emotions to soar as theirs do."

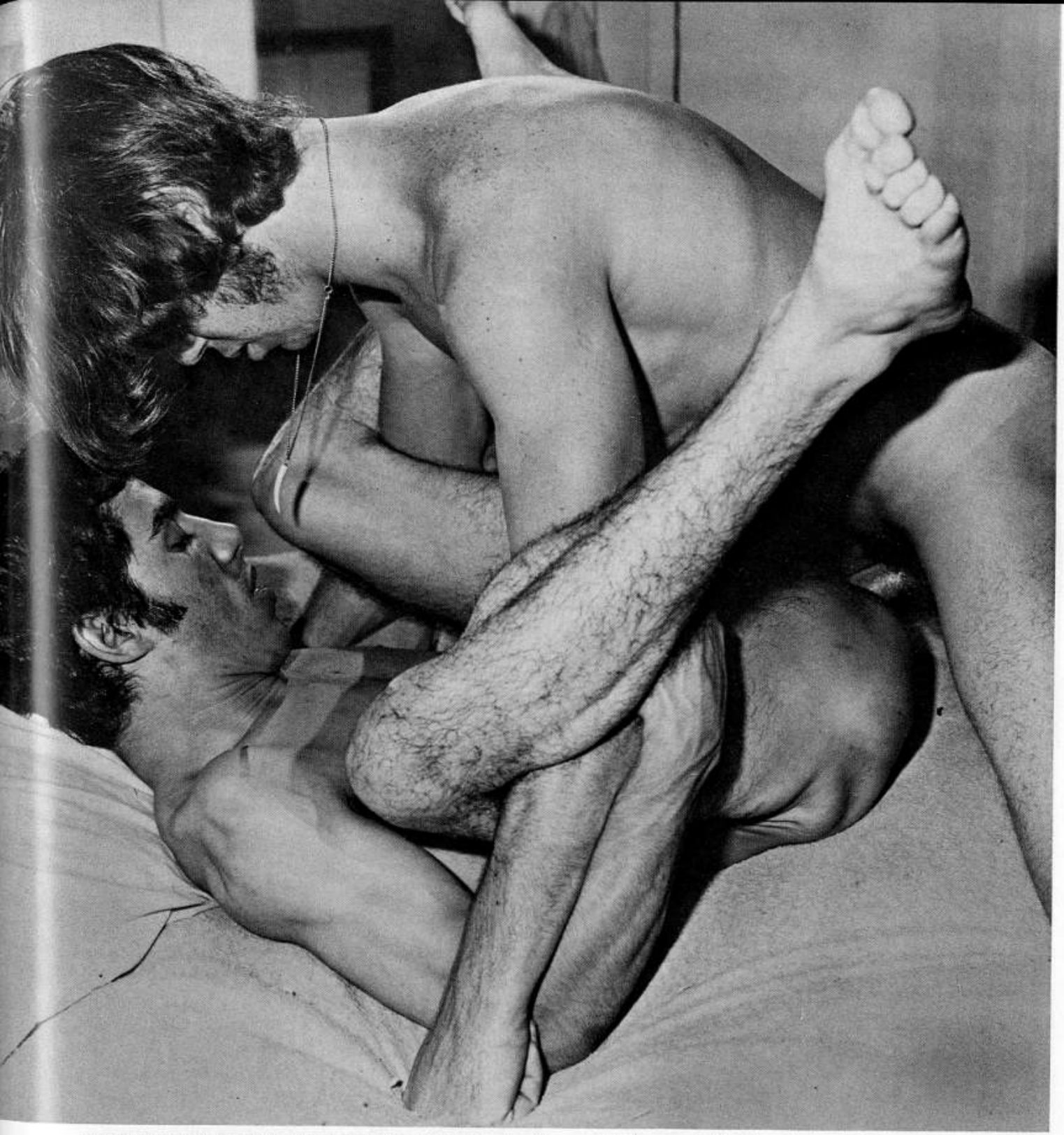
Of all these common "denial" tactics, Danny's—the pose that he is "all man," finding active, upfront homosexuality abhorrent—is the only one which is keeping the self-deluded person from engaging in active, healthy gay sex. Those males lumped together under the other "denial umbrellas" are, after all, sharing sexual pleasure and emotional gratification with their partners. They may be kidding themselves about what they really want out of their erotic lives, but they are *living* them.

The author of *The Homosexual Matrix* is a scientific observer, albeit a remarkably sympathetic and good-humored one. He makes no judgments about his subjects' methods of coming to grips (or evading altogether, if you wish) their inherent homosexuality. His position is that all the "denial umbrellas" can be shed successfully—if the particular homosexual wishes to face his own nature head-on. But he leaves his reader with the impression that he thinks some of these people are well advised to leave well enough alone, given contemporary society's continued stigmatization of homosexuality. What's the harm, Tripp seems to conclude, as long as the guys are getting away with it, and nobody is getting hurt?

Tormented, deeply repressed personalties like Danny are the ones actually suffering under their own socially imposed restrictions. Most of their actively gay contacts are, for their own reasons, no doubt happy enough to enjoy them as they are—attractive, fairly agreeable pieces of young trade who are, in Danny's own terms, "generous, because I know how much you need a stiff prick."

It takes a genuinely understanding, truly sympathetic gay companion like Tom to deal with Danny's personality-crippling frustration. Because Tom possesses not only the loving nature, but the physical attractiveness which can "bring out" Danny's homosexual personality, it seems that Tom (or someone very like him) will be the person to help Danny take his first significant steps in the

A man may have an intense first homosexual experience and still not realize that it indicates something about himself.



The relationship between a trade and his gay partner is often symbiotic—each fills the other's not-just-sexual needs.

direction of an honest, outgoing, self-fulfilling emotional life.

When Danny accepts another male as his love partner, it may be said that he "owes it" to the other fellow to "come out" for him, to share and return the happy sexuality he is being offered.

But regardless of what Danny "owes" his future homosexual companions, he most certainly owes it to *himself* to accept—and to act on—his own true sexual nature. Until that happens, Danny is quite literally not living his life. ●●●

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Artist: Aubrey Beardsley

The Fantasy Monster

by Pete Hollister

Remember Pinocchio, who runs away to the Land of Toys, where every boy lives out his dreams—but is turned into a donkey? For gays, erotic fantasy is all too often a Land of Toys, and the price they pay is nearly as bad.

Someday he'll come along, the man I love,
And he'll be big and strong, the man I love . . .

It's three a.m. The bars closed at two, and the patrons of the after-hours coffee bar look like the survivors of a shipwreck. They stand around singly or in little knots and clusters, their faces reflecting the hour. Some are trying to sober up; some are getting their second wind and talking animatedly with friends; some are too tired to do much talking, but don't want to go home alone. Every guy in the place has his own reasons for being there—and the Fantasy Monster is not the least among them.

Nearly every gay who has ever gone to a bar has seen the Fantasy Monster in action. See that guy over there? He's had two or three opportunities during the evening to go home with someone, but he didn't. Loyalty to a lover? Perhaps. Just out for a good time? Perhaps. But watch how his eyes move. Even when he's talking to one guy, he's cruising another. Chances are he's a victim of the Fantasy Monster. He hasn't gone home with anyone because he's waiting for "something better." And the odds are that he'll wait too long and, even with the buffer of the coffee hour, go home alone.

Fantasy, like fire, can be either a faithful servant or a cruel master. Gays, raised in an atmosphere of straight hostility and their own confusion, often tend to rely more heavily on fantasy than do most heterosexuals. Fantasy offers a buffer between the exposed soul and the anti-gay world that surrounds us all. It holds out hope for young gays isolated from the gay community, and for those gays of all ages who seek in fantasy an escape from loneliness.

There are two basic types of sex fantasy, which are frequently combined—they might be called "situation fantasy" and "people fantasy." Situation fantasies usually act as background, and are often highly enjoyable. They frequently lend themselves to acting-outs that can add zest to sex. Fantasizing that you and your lover are on a desert island having sex on the beach under a palm tree, for example, is great fun—and can be acted out if there's some outdoor location around in which you can be guaranteed total privacy. Situation fantasy can also provide the spark for spur-of-the-moment sex which can be extremely erotic (say, for example, in your closed garage when you've just gotten home from an evening out). This is the type of acted-out fantasy that helps keep any relationship vibrant and alive.

But when fantasy gets out of control, the Fantasy Monster is born, and the servant becomes the master.

Ron H. is an example of an individual who has let harmless situation fantasy become a Fantasy Monster. Ron is impotent unless he's in a situation of potential danger. Public johns, parks, subway stations, in a car moving down the freeway, on the fully exposed balcony of his high-rise apartment late at night—these are the only kinds of circumstance in which Ron's *fantasy* of sex can come close to being matched by reality.

Ron is not alone, though his case may be somewhat extreme. If you're into group sex and you attend a party which turns into an orgy, fine—there's a little bit of the exhibitionist and voyeur in all of us, and a good balance between fantasy and reality is a

healthy thing. But if you *have* to have an orgy in order to function sexually, you're headed for deep trouble. Over-dependence on *any* one aspect of sex to the total exclusion of enjoyment of any other is inevitably stunting to emotional growth.

The Fantasy Monster, however, lurks more strongly—and is far more disruptive to gay relationships—in "people fantasies." People fantasies are, of course, probably the most basic element of solo masturbation. Nearly every gay fantasizes about someone else (usually in terms of having sex with them) during masturbation. It's also not at all uncommon or unhealthy to fantasize about one individual while having sex with another—occasionally. But if your last several sessions with your lover involved your fantasizing about someone

No two sex encounters are going to (or should) be exactly the same—not even with the same partner.

It's not at all uncommon or unhealthy to fantasize about one individual while having sex with another—occasionally.

else while he's fellating you or you're engaged in anal intercourse, maybe it's time you and he had a talk about your sex life.

Carl F.'s Fantasy Monster has made him unable to have sex unless he's fantasizing about two other guys—no matter who he's with. "One time I tricked with a guy who was so fucking beautiful I couldn't believe it," Carl says. "He had a body that wouldn't quit, the world's most perfect cock, and he used it like nobody I've ever met before or since. But while we were making it, I was fantasizing about two studs in some movie I'd seen. Later on, of course, I'd fantasize about *him*—when I was with someone else!"

If you find just a trace of yourself in Carl, it's an indication that fantasy might be getting the upper hand—if it doesn't already have it. The enjoyment of sex is a perfect example of the balance which should—and, for happy, emotionally healthful sex, *must*—exist between mind and body. The physical pleasures of sex are as subtly varied as the individuals who engage in them. No two sex encounters are going to be exactly the same—not even with the same guy. But the gay who has fantasized his sex to the point of losing control to the Fantasy Monster often *has* to force every encounter into set molds.

The fact is that every individual's sex technique is different and should be enjoyed for itself—which guys who are, truly, sexual gourmets already know. To set up a fantasized version of what sex has to be like for you to be able to enjoy it is not only to cheat yourself of a good deal of physical pleasure, but to cut off your sensitivity to a vast spectrum of techniques and those subtle differences which make sex interesting as well as exciting. Trying to force what *is* into what you *think* it should be is foolish—but many gays do it as a matter of course.

There are times, of course, when fantasy can be used as a frosting, to give a needed boost when for some reason or another you're not at your peak—or your partner's techniques just aren't getting through to you. In *The Pleasure Bond*, Dr. William E. Masters, of the Masters and Johnson research team, observes that: "All of us use fantasy, to greater or lesser degree. It is a form of self-stimulation. It helps us move from where we are to where we want to be, when the occasion warrants. In that sense it is a bridge and can be very useful."

Spur-of-the-moment sex in an unusual location—say, closed garage after a night out—can be extremely er

CHARGER

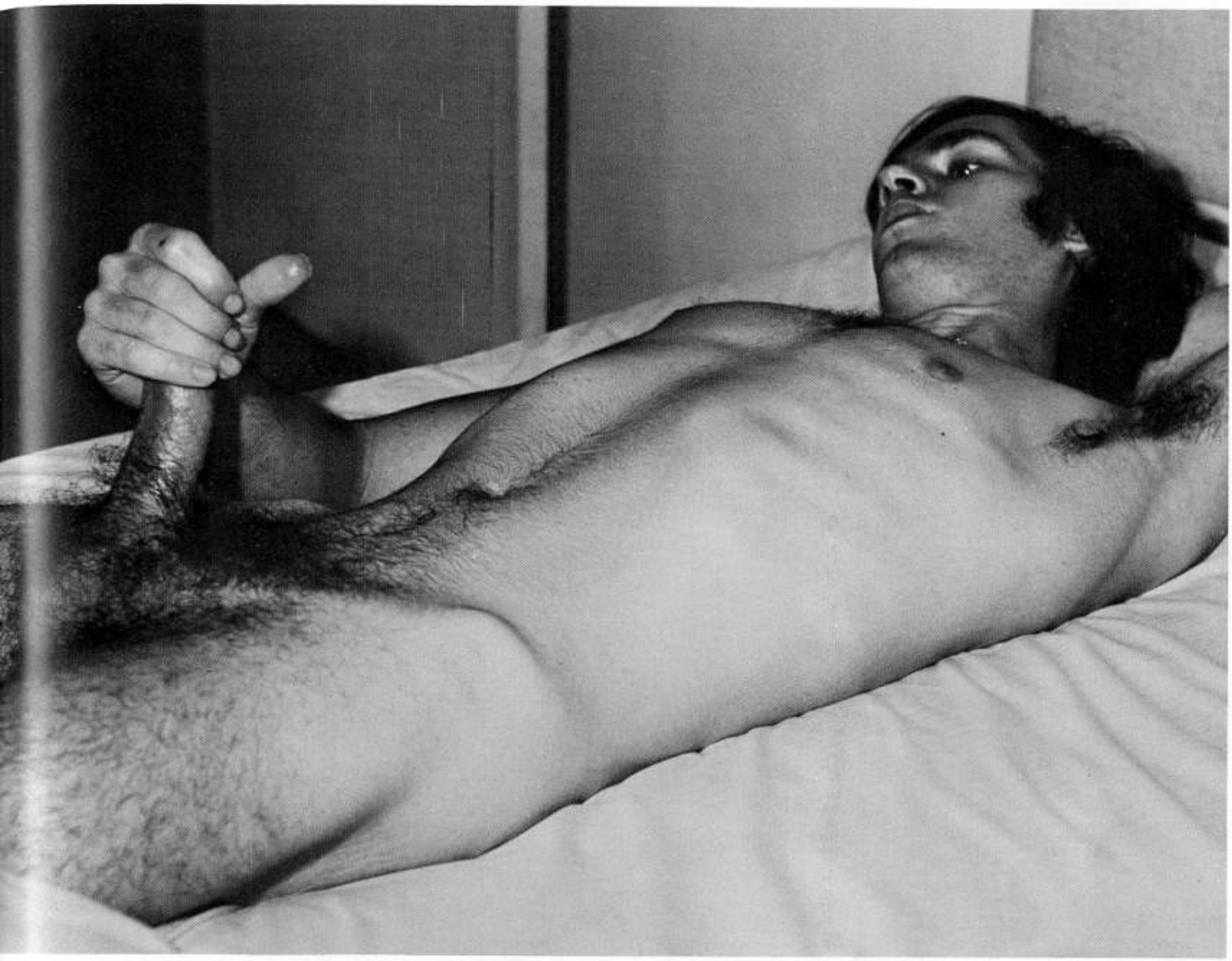
Fantasy often adds spice to sex—but too much spice covers up the true appreciation of any meal. Fantasy works best when it works *for* you, and at these times it can be a delightful servant, indeed.

Fantasies may be powerful, but in the case of individual relationships, they are often fragile. The weight of reality breaks them—and in the process often breaks up gay relationships before they are strong enough to stand on their own. It is, for many, far easier to say: "Oh, the hell with it" when a relationship starts deviating from the fantasy one held about it, rather than to expend the effort to make it work on a realistic level.

Donald Webster Cory and John P. Leroy note, in *The Homosexual and His Society*, that the "homosexual's tendency to fantasize . . . is above average. . . . One is supposed to 'fall in love' rather than grow into it. One is supposed to leap into it rather than make the necessary effort, take the time, and offer the personal sacrifices that are essential to the cultivation of enduring friendships and loyalties." Cory and Leroy have touched here upon a point seldom considered in gay relationships—that lovers must also be *friends*. The Fantasy Monster seldom thinks in terms of friends.

Gays who want a lover so badly they can taste it (and there are many) tend to set their goals too high—again based largely on fantasy. They've dreamed so long and so strongly about what they want and what they expect that they lose all track of reality. All too often, *no one* could possibly live up to the image conjured up in the dreamer's mind. Every

One of the reasons many gays enjoy troilism is because three-ways frequently have an air of fantasy about them.



Nearly every gay fantasizes about someone else (usually in terms of having sex with them) during masturbation.

gay's Prince Charming *is* out there, somewhere—at least potentially. But if your Fantasy Monster has convinced you that Prince Charming has to be an Arnold Swarzenegger look-alike, forget it. Success in finding Prince Charming lies in being able to look for him *inside* a body, not outside.

(That so many gays fall victim to the Fantasy Monster in this area is not surprising. Our entire culture is almost pathologically hung up on youth and beauty. This goes for straights as well as for gays, and demonstrates the power fantasy can hold over an entire society.)

But let's assume that the dreamer does find someone, and falls in love. Once, after a period that varies for each couple, the fantasies of love begin to come into serious conflict with the realities of love, it is the Fantasy Monster who lurks in the dark recesses of the dreamer's mind and whispers with his cousin, Boredom: "Bill's old hat. Sex with him is stale. But, now, Sam, over there, would really be a lot of fun in the sack. You'd never get tired of *him*. You ever get a close look at that basket? Think about it—him lying there in front of the fireplace with a roaring hard-on, his body glistening in the light. He smiles up at you and holds out his arms. . . ." And, unless the dreamer has both his feet firmly planted in reality, his long-sought lover relationship is headed into rocky waters.

Not, again, that lovers *don't* occasionally fantasize about sex with other people. There's nothing unusual about this, and lovers who *do* fantasize about someone else from time to time certainly shouldn't feel guilty about it. But it's a matter of degree—of who's in control, the fantasizer or the fantasy.

The Fantasy Monster is behind most of the macho games many gays play. The "specialty" bars and baths cater blatantly to gay sex fantasies: cowboy

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Overleaf: **Orgies are fine for gays into group sex—as long as they don't *need* an orgy in order to function, sexually.**

Lovers who fantasize about someone else from time to time certainly should have no reason to feel guilty for it.

and Western, motorcycle, S/M—you name it. Males in our society are raised to play macho games (which include football, boxing, etc.)—but only among gay males does the sexuality latent in all these games rise openly to the surface.

Gay fiction perversely plays on gay fantasies to feed the fires of sexual discontent—be it with a lover or in the search for a permanent relationship. Tricking in the "fuck books" is never a problem. All the characters are young, beautiful, always available, and absolute experts at anything and everything they attempt in bed. Cocks are always "huge," balls always "massive," ejaculations are frequent and copious, measured in cupfuls and gallons. No one has sex hangups (though the author's own sexual preferences inevitably dominate the books' action). This all makes for highly erotic reading, but its relationship to real life is almost totally nonexistent. Gay erotic fiction is all too often little more than a lure for the Fantasy Monster.

Once the Fantasy Monster gains control, he'll go to great lengths to hold it. Gays under his domination often turn to drugs/alcohol to ward off reality. Poppers (amyl nitrate, a heart stimulant), pot, good old stupefying booze—all are often the "magic potions" by which the Fantasy Monster rules.

How can you tell how strong a control the Fantasy Monster has over *you*? Think about it. Review your recent sex encounters and see how big a part fantasy played in your enjoyment of them—

and whether you would (or could) have enjoyed them *without* fantasy. And the next time you go to bed with someone, concentrate on the here and now—on your partner and on the sensations you're both giving and receiving. If you're further into fantasy than you'd thought, it may not be easy to break out of the trap, but try. Getting fantasy down to a realistic level where *you* rule *it* rather than it ruling you may take time, but it's well worth the effort, in terms of a better awareness of sex and your ability to enjoy it to the fullest. ●●●

SOURCES:

Cory, Donald Webster, and John P. LeRoy. *The Homosexual and His Society*. New York: The Citadel Press, 1963.

Masters, William H., and Virginia E. Johnson. *The Pleasure Bond*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1974.

McCary, James Leslie. *Sexual Myths & Fallacies*. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, 1971.

Performing fellatio to orgasm often provides both partners with enough sensual pleasure that fantasy isn't needed.

Most gays for whom anal intercourse is a primary sex outlet have some degree of preference for one role or the other.

SEX HANGUPS: The Mind in Chains

by Chris Robbin

We've all got our preferences and prejudices in sex—but the stronger they become, the more they stand in the way of our development as happy, emotionally mature gays.

Few prisons are more confining or more stunting to emotional growth than the prisons we build in our own minds. Having erected the walls with ignorance, we proceed to chain ourselves to them with irrational prejudices and baseless fears. Sex hangups are among the most debilitating of all, for they not only limit our potential enjoyment but frequently stand in the way of the development of a lasting one-to-one relationship with another individual.

There is a considerable difference between natural sex preferences and sex hangups. Not everyone, after all, is going to—or should be expected to—like every possible form of sexual expression, but sex hangups are almost invariably sex preferences and/or prejudices gone wild.

Acts which are variety for most gays—like ejaculating on a partner or being ejaculated on—are compulsion for others.

The more varied a couple's sex life with one another, the less likely they are to seek excitement with someone else.

Just having a sex hangup isn't particularly unusual. Most people, straight and gay, have them. But the more strongly an individual allows himself to be shackled by his hangups, the more difficult it is for him to reach his full potential as a mature and happy human being. If you think *you* are free from sex hangups, perhaps you should think again. The more strongly you react to the subject of any specific area of sex, either positively or negatively, the stronger the indication that you're probably harboring some sort of hangup about it.

Many hangups are relatively harmless, their roots buried deep in the individual's past. Tom I., for example, is married and considers himself bisexual—a condition some might consider a hangup in itself. When he has gay sex, Tom has few inhibitions about what activities he'll engage in. His hangup is that he'll never get totally undressed when he's having sex with a man. Tom's is a minor hangup; total harmless—but it is the kind of idiosyncrasy that is sufficiently disconcerting to his partners to interfere with their total enjoyment of the encounter.

Tom's hangup is on the same general level as being hung up on blonds, or redheads, or moustaches. Harmless, but limiting. And the more limiting any attitude toward sex may be, the more disruptive and harmful the hangup becomes.

Though they may not realize it, gays often use a word synonymously for *hangup: queen*—which doesn't always mean *feminine. Size queens* are hung up on penis size; *leather queens* on the elaborate trappings of the leather set; *chicken queens* aren't turned on by anyone over 19; *dinge queens* are whites who only want black sex partners. The list is endless. But the word *queen*

frequently implies tacit knowledge by the user that the person to whom it is applied has at least part of his mind in chains.

Again, let's make it clear that normal sex preferences are not the same as sex hangups. If, for example, John limits himself to being either the receptor or the inserter in anal intercourse, whether or not it is a hangup for him depends entirely on his own attitudes. If he *can* do either, and has tried it, but just finds one role or the other more satisfying for him, fine. But if he *has* to be on top, or goes limp at the thought of being the inserter, he has shackled his mind, and he'd better do what he can to loosen the chains before he finds he can't.

Worrying about a sex hangup, of course, only makes it worse. Gays who experience occasional impotence, for example, often find that excessive worry about it soon turns into a self-fulfilling prophesy. Most men experience impotence from time to time, for any number of reasons—they're overtired, had too much to drink, are worried over some (usually) temporary personal problem. Impotence needn't be a hangup, but it can easily become one through worry. If ever *you* should have trouble "getting it up" one evening, the thing to do is just chalk it up to experience and forget about it. Because it's almost guaranteed that if you allow yourself to worry about it, it *will* happen again.

Sex hangups generally develop slowly over the years—so slowly that they tend to become part of the individual, and he may actually be unaware of them. They are far more obvious to his partners, who may be reluctant to comment on them unless they are totally disruptive to the encounter. It's much easier just to go along with a trick's hangup than to create waves—and it's often a guy's hangup that *makes* him a trick rather than a potential long-term partner.

That gays have so many sex-oriented hangups is hardly unusual, considering the double dose of guilt under which every gay is raised. To be a sexually repressed minority within a sexually repressive society is a pretty large burden for anyone to handle. *All* men in our society are brainwashed from birth with what might be called the *macho syndrome*. This, as puberty approaches, includes the almost pathological assumption that one's value as a man is directly related to how far and how frequently he can sink his penis into a vagina. And no matter how successful he may be, or how hard he tries, he always has the sneaking suspicion that he's not the "man" he should be.

Gays, on the one hand, know full well that being a man does not depend on "fucking chicks"—but they still must contend with the vague idea that there is some standard of masculinity against which they must be measured. It's no wonder, then, that Levi's, leather, motorcycles, boots, and other "socially approved" symbols of the macho image should be so vitally important to so many gays. Thus we have gays who are hung up on guys with tattoos, guys with beards, guys with pierced nipples. You name it—if it's "masculine" and kinky enough, there's bound to be a group of gays hung up on it. Variations on the macho syndrome are probably at the base of the bulk of gay sex hangups.

Mike W.'s hangup is fairly typical, and is directly related to the macho syndrome. Mike is afraid to show any emotion to a partner. He finds it difficult, and sometimes impossible, to give anything but the most basic reciprocation in sex. And yet Mike is totally unaware of his hangup, and can't understand why he doesn't have a lover. Why, he wonders, can't someone accept him for who he is? The obvious answer to that question is another question: Why should they? *Everyone* has a right to expect sex to be a two-way street, so unless Mike finds a partner who is something of a mental masochist, or until he wakes up and starts operating on the Golden Rule, he's in for a lot of frustration.

Another offshoot of the macho syndrome is typified by Glenn J. His hangup is that he loves

Strong anti-anal hangups may make a gay lose his erection when he tries to be the inserter in anal intercourse.

to perform fellatio. Liking to perform fellatio is not, in itself, a hangup for most gays. But Glenn is only happy when he's fellating straight men. Glenn has been gay ever since he can remember, but he is so thoroughly brainwashed to the idea that "queers" are three evolutionary steps beneath scum that he actually believes it, way in the back of his mind. Glenn's hangup has him on a dead-end street as far as ever being able to develop a meaningful relationship with another gay—or even to develop his own potential as a self-confident, mature human being.

Many gays are chained to their sex hangups in ways that severely affect their ability to select a serious, long-term partner—ways which almost guarantee that no such relationship can, indeed, be established. Cal T., like many gays, has a strangely distorted macho image. He's so busy playing the role of super-stud as he sees it that he can't just relax and be himself—simply because he's afraid that "himself" could never live up to the image. Cal wants a lover, but his hangup constantly attracts—and makes him be attracted to—immature, flighty types who may be great in bed but who lack the emotional maturity necessary for any long-term relationship. (Part of Cal's hangup is that, though he doesn't realize it, that's probably precisely why he selects them.)

There are times, of course, when Cal's type of hangup works out all right—at least on a short-

If a trick is hung up on masturbation, it's usually easier just to go along with him than to make an issue of it.

If a gay is turned on by being dominant in fellatio, it may well be a trait he developed slowly over the years.

term basis. Gays with complementary hangups sometimes appear to fit very well together—but it is seldom what one might consider a smooth or emotionally expanding relationship. A mental masochist and a mental sadist often work out a mutually "rewarding"—if strange—relationship. One "suffers," the other "punishes." But for any successful, long-term, emotionally sound relationship, it's always better if the two men involved can work within overlapping spheres of interest.

Variety in sex is, indeed, one of the spices of life—but this variety *can* exist within a one-to-one relationship. The more varied a couple's sex life can be with one another, the less likely one or both of them will be to seek that variety outside the relationship.

Of course, in the formation of any relationship, each individual must face the fact that his partner, too, is likely to have a few sex-related hangups of his own. Establishing a relationship that works often involves the mutual recognition of one's own and one's partner's hangups, the degree of their severity as existing or possible obstructions to the relationship, and the willingness to work both as individuals and as a team to resolve them.

Anyone who tells you that any sex hangup can be overcome by just wishing it away is kidding either himself or you. There are often times when an individual's sex hangups are so severe, so limiting to his development as a mature individual, that professional help is indicated. Don G. was gang-raped two years ago, and has been completely turned off to sex ever since. He wants to give, but can't. His understandable reaction could undoubtedly be cured by professional help—in fact, it's very unlikely that Don can work out the problem on his own.

If you feel—or find—that you are unable to overcome a particular hangup which you feel is inhibiting your development as a mature individual, don't hesitate to seek professional help. If you aren't sure about how to go about getting it, contact your nearest gay-oriented service organization (the Metropolitan Community Church, the various Gay Community Service Centers, any one of the gay organizations listed in gay publications) and ask them for referrals. Care *is* important in selecting the right kind of help. There are still a large number of psychologists and psychiatrists who view homosexuality as a "sickness," and you don't need or want their "help." Your hangup may or may not